Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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POLICE TARGET RESTAURANTS IN MODERN SLAVERY PROBE

Red Leaf in West Bromwich, where no action was taken

POLICE executed a warrant at a West Bromwich restaurant as part of a wider investigation into the exploitation of eastern European workers for cheap labour.

Officers carried out raids at three restaurants across the region, including Red Leaf in High Street, West Bromwich, after acting on information that suggested staff were being brought into the UK and paid a pittance.

A modern slavery warrant was also executed simultaneously at Ming Moon, Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, along with Red Leaf at 8am on Tuesday morning. Nothing was found at Red Leaf however. A spokesman for the restaurant said: "Police came and asked for information and left."

Premises in Coventry and Handsworth were also raided. A total of 20 men, mainly from Slovakia and Romania, were discovered and living in poor conditions. Police say they have been safeguarded and taken to a reception centre where they will be given an opportunity to speak to specially trained officers.

A 49-year-old man and woman aged 45, both Slovakian, have been arrested on suspicion of slavery offences by providing staff through a recruitment consultancy.

Chief Inspector Sally Simpson, from West Midlands Police's public protection unit, said: "Unfortunately we hear all too often of cruel individuals making large sums of money on the back of the misery of others.

"These 'gang masters' promise a job, accommodation and money; but people end up working long hours, living in poor conditions and being paid next to nothing.

"This is the 21st century and we are committed to tackling people trafficking and modern slavery. We are continually looking to raise awareness of what is still a hidden crime. We need the public to help us stop such exploitation and report anything suspicious; which can help us take firm and decisive action such as this operation today."

Anybody who suspects slavery or trafficking offences in their community is urged to call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 0800 0121 700, visit the website www.modernslaveryhelpline.org or call 101.

THREE CHILD ABUSE CLAIMS EVERY DAY

MORE than 6,000 child abuse allegations have been made in Sandwell over the past five years, it has been revealed.

Figures showed social services dealt with hundreds of cases every year since 2012. A total of 6,226 allegations were referred to Sandwell Council's social services team up to 2016 – an average of three every day. Council bosses said the number of children being 'abused and neglected' was rising in Sandwell.

However, he insisted it was not a problem restricted solely to the borough. The NSPCC said every allegation of abuse needed to be taken seriously.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling admitted it was a 'worrying situation' and called for Government intervention. Child abuse has been back in the national spotlight this month following the conviction of 18 people who were part of a child sex ring in Newcastle. Councillor Eling said: "These are some of the most difficult and sensitive matters that we have as a council have to deal with.

"Over the last few years we have seen increasing numbers of children being neglected and abused. There are now more children in Sandwell who are subject to Child Protection Plans than we have ever had before. This is a national issue and Sandwell like many authorities are having to commit more resources than we have ever had to in the past."

By Richard Guttridge

"There is a serious social policy breakdown which needs a needs a national policy intervention to reverse this worrying situation. Just taking more and more children into care cannot be the answer.

"As a council our number one priority is to ensure that children are safe. We work closely with other agencies to ensure that this happens."

An NSPCC spokesperson said: "Any allegation that a child has been abused must be taken seriously and dealt with sensitively and promptly. Abuse can happen to any child from any background and the general public have an integral role to play.

"We would urge anyone concerned about a child's welfare to contact the NSPCC's 24/7 Helpline on 0808 800 5000. Callers can remain anonymous and should not wait until they're absolutely certain something is wrong."

Slimmer Sally jumps for joy at weight loss

The picture that inspired Sally's slimming

A new woman, after losing six stone

A SLIMMER who decided to turn her life around has shed nearly six stone in 10 months.

Sally Usherwood, aged 34, was inspired to drop four dress sizes when she returned from holiday last September and felt unhappy looking at back at photos from the trip.

The IT consultant, from Rowley Regis, decided to take action and join her slimming world class at Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury. She said: "It's the first class I have ever done, I've tried to diet at home before and things like that.

"I have been doing it for 10 months in total now, my original target was four stone – and I never thought I would manage that. I am proud of it, no-one has done it for me. I do miss the real ale, but there you go."

"I feel fabulous. It has given me a lot more confidence losing the weight."

She has since been named 'woman of the year' at the class for her achievements.

Her partner Martin was also inspired to join her on her weight loss mission and has lost four-and-a-half stone.

TRANSPORT

Campaigners call for return of Oldbury bus

BUS passengers are demanding the return of a service after it was withdrawn from parts of the Black Country.

More than 250 people have signed a petition calling for the return of the number 89 to Oldbury and Blackheath after it was rerouted.

The National Express service took people from the area into Birmingham but it changed its route following a shake-up of services earlier this year.

A petition signed by people living in Oldbury, Langley and Smethwick has been handed to Transport for West Midlands.

National Express announced changes to some of its services earlier this year.

The 89 now runs from Birmingham to West Bromwich rather than to Oldbury.

EYESORE

Demolition of pub moves step nearer

A DERELICT pub which was the target of anti-social-behaviour has moved a step closer to being bulldozed.

The owners of the Cottage Inn, on Hobbs Road in Wednesbury, have revealed a planning application to bring it down and turn it into houses and apartments will be submitted to Sandwell Council in September. The move has been welcomed by ward councillor Peter Hughes, who campaigned alongside fellow Wednesbury North councillors Elaine Costigan and Tony Meehan to get the site cleared up.

PROTEST

Bins hope after strike suspended

BINS are finally expected to be collected from streets around Great Barr this week following the Birmingham bins strike.

People living in the Oscott area are expected to be visited by binmen over the coming days as the city attempts to return to normal after seven weeks of chaos which left rubbish piling up on the streets.

INSIDE

CRACKING DOWN ON BIKE CRIME

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Worker rescued after fall from roof

Rescuers carrying out the delicate operation

A WORKER had to be rescued after falling onto scaffolding on the roof of a house.

The roofer suffered back and abdominal injuries after falling from the roof at the house on Morrison Road, Tipton.

Firefighters led a complex rescue operation to ensure the man got down to the ground safely.

The injured man was placed onto a stretcher as West Midlands Fire Service's technical rescue team used a rope lowering system to get him down.

The roofer had been working at a semi-detached house when he fell around eight feet onto the scaffolding which was at second-floor level at around 5.45pm on Thursday.

He was assessed by paramedics once safely down on the ground and taken to Sandwell Hospital.

Fire service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "We received a call from the ambulance service who requested assistance for a male who had fallen from a roof onto scaffolding.

"We sent our technical rescue team and crews from Tipton and Wednesbury.

"He was rescued using a stretcher and rope lowering system. They managed to get him onto the ground and he was re-assessed by the ambulance service and taken to hospital."

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "We worked closely with the fire service's technical rescue team to get the patient safely onto the ground.

Shops face postcode lottery over thefts

SHOPS are more at risk of thefts depending where they are situated in the Black Country, according to new figures which show wide ranges in the number of offences against businesses.

Fifty cases of shoplifting in the Dudley borough were reported to police in May, and that is compared to 24 in the Walsall borough.

In Sandwell there were 39 and in Wolverhampton 33. Meanwhile, in Solihull, there were just 18 offences. The figures, from a Freedom of Information Act request to West Midlands Police, by the Lib Dems do not surprise traders in Dudley.

Mohammed Sagir, chairman of the Voice of Dudley Businesses, said about the new figures released: "It is a subject which is raised increasingly by members. There are CCTV cameras all around Dudley, but too often we report crimes, get a reference number and then do not hear anything more.

Offences

"We want confidence that these people doing it are getting caught."

West Midlands Police did charge 561 in connection with shoplifting offences over the same month. Sixty six others received a caution during the same period.

For those reported crimes where the value was reported to the police, 24 incidents were for £1 items. The highest value item stolen in a raid was £1,400.

Chief Supt Keith Fraser, force lead for business crime, said: "Some people think of shoplifting as being a 'victimless' crime but the impact it has on everyone should not be underestimated. In addition to the actual cost, these offences can have a detrimental and long-lasting impact on staff who work in shops and stores, the economy and also communities."

"We are involved in a number of initiatives to target shoplifters in the West Midlands, including retail radio schemes."

Wheelie fine skills at skate park

BMX rider Pinder Singh from Telford makes it look easy at the Skate Jam in Lightwoods Park

Super-duper skaters whizzed around ramps and showed off their best skills at a unique event at a Sandwell park.

The summer Skate Jam took place at Lightwoods Park in Bearwood on Saturday afternoon.

Dozens of enthusiasts arrived at the park with scooters, BMXs and skateboards to take part in the competition hosted by Birmingham pro skater Bob Sanderson.

Bob said: "This gives children a sense of pride and ownership of their skills and the local area.

"I have been skateboarding for 32 years now and this skate park will be 26 years old this year. Skateboarding will be going to the 2020 Olympics and we want to raise the profile of it as much as we can. It helps change lives and I've made so many friends through this."

The event included three disciplines for Scooters, BMX and Skateboards with three age ranges – 12 and under, 13 to 16 and 16 and above.

Prizes were available for the top three spaces provided by The Skate Hut as well as an opportunity to win a bespoke BMX in The Big Sleuth raffle – where all proceeds went to Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity.

Julia Morris, from Sandwell Council who was behind the event, said: "It's a great way to engage with young people. They are out being active in the sun and its a nice event for all the family to come and watch.

"We want to make sure that our facilities like this continue to improve for future generations."

Widow's £1k stolen from wardrobe by workman

A WINDOW cleaner who stole more than £1,000 from a frail 86-year-old widow after targeting her on his round has been locked up for more than two years.

Joshua Woodhouse, who had served with the Armed Forces in Afghanistan, was £6,000 in debt, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 26-year-old from Oldbury struck after spotting the poorly-sighted victim hiding the tin in which she kept a cash float in a wardrobe at the fourth floor West Bromwich flat.

She was a 'fiercely independent woman' but her four children visited regularly and noticed money had gone missing between April 20 and 26, explained Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

A CCTV system was installed in a bid to identify the culprit and caught Woodhouse red handed stealing from the stash on May 17. He took £1,000 on the first occasion and later just a £20 note left as bait by the suspicious relatives.

Mr Spratt explained: "One of her children visits every day and ensures she has enough cash to pay for services such as hairdressing, chiropody and the internal cleaning of her windows."

Woodhouse from Bleakhouse Road and of previous good character pleaded guilty to two charges of burglary and was jailed for two years and one month.

Ridiculous rules irk Brum workers

RIDICULOUS rules are in place at 38.2 per cent of workplaces in Birmingham, research from jobs website CV-Library has found.

Where such rules are in place 34.6 per cent of workers said that they make them feel restricted. The study asked 1,000 UK workers whether their employer had any silly rules in place.

In Birmingham 65.4 per cent said they would disobey any rules they deem as 'silly'. One of the top 'silly' rules was imposing a strict time frame in which to go to the toilet. Another was wearing particular coloured clothes to match the business and not allowing women to wear trousers.

Several said that they weren't allowed to say hello to a customer, only good morning or good afternoon.

Networking event at Beacon Centre

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce's next Chamber Brunch Networks event is taking place in Sedgley.

It is being held at the Beacon Centre for the Blind, Wolverhampton Road East, on Tuesday, September 5, from 10am to 12 noon.

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Robber who ripped off earrings is locked up

A ROBBER who ripped gold earrings off a pensioner in the street has been locked up after he was identified following a police appeal.

Inderjit Singh Dhaliwal tore the jewellery from the ear of his 66-year-old victim as she walked along Church Hill Street, Smethwick.

Dhaliwal had followed the woman off the bus from the High Street and grabbed the sentimental earrings – leaving the woman injured – at just after 2pm on May 26.

The 40-year-old jumped on another bus but the victim and her friend managed to flag it down. However, as the injured woman tried to approach Dhaliwal he pushed past, knocking one of them over, before running off.

Officers released CCTV in a bid to trace Dhaliwal who was quickly recognised by the public – leading to his arrest in early July.

Dhaliwal, of Bearwood Road, Bearwood, pleaded guilty to robbery and assault and was jailed for two years and 10 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Friday August 11.

Det Con Sarah Forster said: "This was a particularly nasty robbery where the victim not only suffered the trauma of having her sentimental earrings taken but the pain of having them ripped off.

"Thanks to the help of the public we were able to identify Dhalilwal and make sure he faced justice."

Sinhaman set to Chase laughter

CHASER Paul Sinha will entertain fans with a comedy show in Birmingham next month. The ITV game show star will perform at Pizza Express, Brindleyplace. Whilst studying medicine in the 1990s, Paul took his first steps on the stand-up comedy circuit. He pursued both careers and at the 2006 Edinburgh Festival earned a nomination for the highest accolade in live comedy, the Edinburgh Comedy Award. Shortly afterwards, Paul hung up his stethoscope to become a full-time comedian (and also a Chaser).

Paul Sinha

He will be joined by fellow comedians Mick Ferry and MC Andy Robinson on September 27.

Doors to the show open at 6.30pm, with the show set to start at 8.30pm.

It is intended to end at 10.15pm, though all timings are subject to change.

Tickets, priced at £19, are now on sale.

Museum ready for talk on the Wilde side

Getting ready for tea with Oscar Wilde

THERE will be a chance to turn back the clock to the1890s next month, at one of the Black Country's top tourist attractions.

Don't Go Into The Cellar Theatre Company and the staff and Friends group at Haden Hill House Museum, are inviting visitors to the 1890s' wittiest 'Chit-Chat' show – with a fabulous afternoon tea to follow.

The show, at the venue off Barrs Road, Cradley Heath, takes place on Sunday 17 September, starting at 2.30pm and will be followed by drinks, sandwiches and cakes.

"You'll be 'Wilde' about who he has on his chaise," said Alison Hyatt, visitor services officer at the museum, "as the ever-popular modern TV chat show is taken back more than 100 years for the Victorian age and hosted by the acclaimed wit and playwright of the era, Oscar Wilde.

"Guests will include a selection of some of the 'celebrities' of the late Victorian period and, as with modern chat shows, will be packed full of gossip, song and humour – with a few surprises along the way."

Councillor Richard Marshall, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "Haden Hill House is the perfect setting for this Victorian twist on a modern TV chat show format. Get along to find out about the 'celebrities' of the day."

Tickets are £15 per person to include performance and afternoon tea. Advanced booking essential. Tickets are available from the house when the site is open on Thursdays and Fridays 10am-5pm and Saturdays and Sundays 2pm-6pm. For more information call 01384 569 444 or go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums.

Police close suspected brothel after complaints

A SUSPECTED brothel has been closed down by police following a raft of complaints from residents.

Officers swooped on a property in Montague Road, Smethwick, which was they said was being used by Romanian women.

Ward councillor Roger Horton said the property had been an issue of major concern in the area.

Police said three women were discovered at the property who confirmed it was being used as a sex establishment.

Councillor Horton said several residents had called for action over the brothel.

He said: "We had people coming into the surgery and writing letters about it. Some letters were anonymous, people were frightened to put their names on.

"The police got involved with other agencies and sorted it out.

"I'm pleased it has been sorted out. This isn't the first one. I'm hoping it will be the last."

Monitor

Jessica Redmond, a police engagement officer in Sandwell, said: "Officers closed down what they believed to be a brothel operating in Smethwick.

"Officers discovered three Romanian females openly admitting to using the premises for sexual services.

"Officers continued to monitor the premises immediately thereafter in response to several complaints by residents before getting in touch with the letting agent and sexual exploitation team and immigration."

The police operation was carried out last month but details have only now been released.

It is the latest suspected brothel to be closed in the West Midlands amid concerns over trafficking and modern slavery.

In February, West Midlands Police raided a suspected brothel in Coventry uncovered by adverts on adult websites.

Earlier this year, an Express & Star investigation revealed West Midlands as the modern slavery capital outside of London with nearly 90 crimes recorded last year with authorities identified around 350 potential victims.

Culture is celebrated at festival

Some of the scrumptious traditional fayre on offer at the annual Asian music and food festival on Sunday

A COLOURFUL celebration of culture and cuisine took place in Smethwick. Thousands descended on Victoria Park for their annual Asian music and food festival on Sunday.

Performers took to the stage as tasty classic dishes were served around the venue along with fun fair rides for children. Councillor Bawa Singh Dhallu, who was behind organising the event, said: "It went beyond our expectations. It was fantastic. The numbers increased this year which was great news for us too. One of the best acts was Geeta Zaildar who came from India."

Revellers came from far and wide across Sandwell and Birmingham to enjoy the sights and sounds of the festival.

Food, shopping stalls and businesses were also on display at the event which ran from 12-6pm. It was opened by Sandwell Mayor, Councillor Ahmadul Haque MBE.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Flats scheme for church bid site

A CHURCH which was the subject of a failed takeover bid could now be turned into flats.

A bid was launched to save the Church of God of Prophecy in Smethwick and keep it open as a place of worship after it closed its doors in 2013 but the proposal failed to come to fruition.

An application has now been lodged to convert the building, on Regent Street, into 11 flats.

Richard Umar Azeemi, from the nearby House of Praise Ministries, was unsuccessful in his bid to keep the church able as he was not willing to meet its £425,000 asking price.

Industrial estate price tag tops £1m

AN industrial site in West Bromwich has been put on the market for more than £1 million.

Hammec Industrial Estate in Brandon Way is currently fully let to electrical and construction businesses.

The two-acre site has been put up for sale with Dudley-based Sellers Chartered Surveyors for offers in excess of £1,100,000.

The site has eight steel frame units, with offices and workshops.

The advert states that it is in a popular area within close proximity of the motorway network.

Bake-off tribute to Alf in Tipton

A LOCAL history day is being held next month on the theme of Tipton – a cut above the rest.

Tipton's annual celebration, on September 23, is this year dedicated to the late Alf Breakwell, a friend and supporter of Tipton library, known for his baking.

In tribute, a Breakwell Bake Off, a cake competition will be held on the day.

It will also include two book launches and live music from the Scarbellies, community stalls and home-made refreshment stalls.

Mental health ward opens at hospital

A NEW ward specialising in mental health has been opened at a hospital in Birmingham.

The Priory Hospital Woodbourne, in Edgbaston, invested £1.25 million funding in a bid to help cope with the demand from mental health patients.

Twenty-five new posts have been created as part of the investment. The new Manor Ward, a private in-patients facility, will now provide treatment for men and women over the age of 18.

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Volunteer plea for trust work

VOLUNTEERS are wanted for a county wildlife trust's nature reserve.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust needs help from people in Lichfield, Burntwood and Cannock. It is to help with its recently-acquired Gentleshaw Common. The trust has signed a 99-year lease with Lichfield District Council. Tasks for volunteers including bracken control and heathland restoration.

Volunteers meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month with each work party taking place between 10.30am and 3pm, meeting at the parking area off Chorley Road at the end of Ogley Hay Road.

Coroner's court opens its doors

DUDLEY'S historical coroner's court will be throwing open its doors to the public as part of Heritage Open Day next month.

The event, on September 9, is a celebration of the country's architecture and culture, and venues not usually open to the public allow access to enable visitors to discover the hidden treasures lying within.

The Coroner's Court, located on St James's Road, Dudley is a Grade II* listed building, was designed by Harvey & Wicks, and built between 1924 and 1928, as part of the civic quadrant. For more details on go to www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Young doctors shun surgeries

A THIRD of trainee doctors have been put off working in GP surgeries, according to a new West Midland study. They would rather be locums or salaried GPs than in a GP partnership.

Research by the University of Warwick found that perceptions about workload pressure was putting young doctors off. Professor Jeremy Dale said: "A sizeable proportion of individuals did not describe their future career plans, perhaps expressing ambiguity about career direction."

Cadets scheme set to be launched

A POLICE cadets scheme will be launched in the autumn.

It will be rolled out at schools in Birmingham and Sandwell after the start of the new school year with plans to expand across the region in 2018. Pupils at Washwood Heath Academy, Holte School, Shireland Academy and Holly Lodge Science College will have the first opportunity to sign up to the new Volunteer WMP Cadets.

Profits soar in airport's busiest year

PROFITS have soared as Birmingham Airport enjoyed the busiest year in its history, new figures reveal. At the same time it almost doubled the amount it was spending on try to cope with its growth, including a project to upgrade its baggage handling system.

Pre-tax profits at the airport rocketed by more than 50 per cent in the 12 months to the end of March, to £38.1 million, according to accounts just filed at Companies House. Turnover rose by £15m to £145.8m as passenger numbers rose 14 per cent to a record 11.9 million. It was the sixth consecutive year of rising passenger numbers at the airport, which is growing twice as fast as the UK aviation industry as a whole.

Double digit growth was down to a combination of rising passenger numbers on existing routes, new routes to Lisbon, Luxembourg and Paris Orly as well as the arrival of new airlines such as Alba Star, Cobalt Air, Jet2 and Czech Airlines. Ryanair increased its flights, while long haul services benefited from increasing flights to Doha by Qatar Airways and to Dubai by Emirates, which now operates the double-decker Airbus A380.

The most popular destinations from Birmingham were Dublin, Dubai and Amsterdam. Airport bosses are predicting further growth this year, with British Airways launching weekly summer services and Jet2 adding 18 more routes.

The airport's income from the charges it levies on airlines for using its facilities rose by 14.2 per cent last year, while the commercial income from duty free shopping, catering and property rental rose 10 per cent.

Brothers' row ends in 'frenzied knife attack'

By Annabal Bagdi

A MAN armed with three knives launched a 'frenzied' attack on his brother in front of two police officers, a court heard.

Gareth Cable pulled out the knives during a 'childish' argument with James Cable, in the hallway of their sister's home, prosecutors allege. The 41-year-old plunged a blade deep through his brother's hand and slashed him across his face at the Yew Tree Estate property, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Dean Kershaw, prosecuting, said: "There may be lots of regret in this case. But at the time he was thrusting that knife into his brother's face, we say he intended to kill him." The brothers were at the Birchfield Way home when police were calledon February 23. Officers were unaware Gareth Cable had a knife in his pocket and two blades in his jacket, the court was told.

The defendant, of Norton Crescent, Bordesley Green, brandished a pink handled flick knife before pushing his brother into the hall and jabbing him to the face, the court heard.

He then slashed his victim with a blade across the nose and 'sliced' through tendons and nerves as he repeatedly stabbed his brother, who may lose the use of his hand, Mr Kershaw said. Police only managed to bring the attack to an end when an officer Tasered Gareth Cable. Mr Kershaw added: "[The argument] all seemed a bit petty. But it escalated when this defendant produced a knife."

Jurors were told the defendant accepts he stabbed his brother with a black handled kitchen knife and the flick knife but rejects claims regarding a Stanley knife. Cable denies attempted murder and having an article with a blade or a point. The trial continues.

Arriving train proves to be real Eurostar

The engine being transported to the National College for High Speed Rail in Birmingham

A REFURBISHED Eurostar carriage has been donated to a new college in the West Midlands. The Eurostar power car has been given a new lease of life at the National College for High Speed Rail in Birmingham.

The 25-ton power car, which was previously used to whisk more than 160 million passengers from London to Paris and Brussels at speeds of more than 180mph, has been donated to the college by Alstom and Eurostar after being retired from service. The train will now have a new lease of life in Birmingham by playing a critical role in educating Britain's next generation of engineers.

Chiefs said the car will be used as part of the college's wider education programme as learners get to grips 'with a range of engineering specialisms from rolling stock, to track systems and power'.

Clair Mowbray, chief executive for the National College for High Speed Rail, said: "This latest addition to our Birmingham campus has arrived just as learners across the region are processing their A-level results.

"For those who are currently looking at clearing options or haven't yet decided their next steps, the new power car is symbolic of the smart alternative that the college offers to university."

The college opens in September.

Builder in DIY SOS bid has tools replaced

A SELFLESS builder, who was giving up his time for free to help others, was devastated when his equipment was stolen as he worked.

But he has now been given a lift, after being given £500 of tools to help recover his losses. Brett Bradford, aged 57, was working on a driveway at a home in West Bromwich as part of the DIY SOS Big Build at the house.

The team were renovating the home of Sandra Chambers, who lost her daughter Crystal.

Crystal tragically died in October 2015 at the age of 32 after being diagnosed with terminal cancer just weeks before, leaving behind two young children Deago, nine and Ameira, three. Without home insurance, or owning a home, her children were left in the care of Crystal's grieving mother, Sandra, to be looked after.

They moved in with Sandra and her 19-year-old son, Ziggy, in the cramped house in Livingstone Road.

But hundreds of kind tradespeople, including Brett, gave up their time to help transform Sandra's home and make it more suitable for their needs.

But on the final day of work, Brett was left devastated after thieves broke into his van and cleared it. Brett, who runs Allscapes Design and Build, based in Brookside, Telford, said: "The van was literally parked on the street where we were filming and doing the makeover, about 100 yards away, I could see it from where we were but when you're doing a driveway you're bending down."

Immediately after the theft, TV presenter Nick Knowles took to social media to appeal for help for Brett, and another builder who was affected.

Residents fight parking scheme

A PETITION has been launched by residents who have objected to proposed parking restrictions in the Black Country.

Residents living around Freemount Square in Great Barr have objected to double yellow lines being put down on Woodfort Road.

But Newtown ward councillor David Hosell said another group of residents are in favour of the move.

"There is a conflict of interest," he added.

"It is a no-win situation."

A total of 32 signatures have been collected for the petition against the proposed restrictions for the route, which was submitted to Birmingham City Council's Cabinet Petitions Committee.

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Audiences at 81pc for rep as it nears new season

OLDBURY Rep has revealed that overall attendance to its productions has hit 81 per cent for the year, as it prepares for the start of a new season on September 9.

The season-opener is Ronald Harwood's comedy drama Equally Divided, which runs until September 16.

This is followed by the classic tale of Holmes and The Ripper, an atmospheric and chilling production showcasingthe legendary detective as he attempts to hunt down Jack the Ripper. It runs from November 4-11.

January sees the rep's ever-popular panto take over when 'Aladdin' flies into Old Peking. The show, which is not suitable for children under three, runs from January 12-20.

Meanwhile the rep is continuing with its Friday film screenings, with Their Finest, starring Bill Nighy, being shown on September 22. And on October 6, Viceroy's House, based on Lord Mounbatten's years as the last Viceroy of India, with Downton Abbey's Hugh Bonneville, will be shown – cinema tickets are £4.

Theatre tickets can be obtained by phone or in person from the box office on Monday evenings from 7.30pm, and on the Friday prior to opening night from 7.30pm, and every night of the production from 7pm, prices are £10, £9 concessions and £8 for Mondays and Tuesdays. Call 0121 552 2761, or log on at www.oldburyrep.org

Employment at all-time high

EMPLOYMENT has reached an all-time high in the UK and pay growth picked up pace, easing the pressure on cash-strapped households confronted by higher inflation.

The Office for National Statistics said the number of people in work nationally rose by 125,000 to 32.07 million in the three months to June, with the employment rate climbing by 0.3 per cent to a record 75.1 per cent.

In the West Midlands the number in work was 2.67m, a rate of 72.3 per cent.

The jobs market remained a bright spot for the economy, with the unemployment rate dropping by 0.2 per cent to 4.4 per cent for the three months to June, its lowest level since 1975.

Views at library

WOLVERHAMPTON Photographic Society has opened its annual exhibition at the city's Central Library.

There are around 40 images of landscapes and wildlife on display, which will be on show until September 2.

Apprentices' growing success story

Horticulture apprentices at the college

GREEN-FINGERED apprentices from Sandwell are celebrating after being rewarded for their achievements by their horticultural college.

Apprentices working towards their Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications with Sandwell Council were welcomed to South Staffordshire College's new AgriSTEM Academy at the Rodbaston College in Penkridge to celebrate their progress.

They included Kayleigh Hartwell aged 20 from Tipton who was awarded the British Association of Landscape Industries' (BALI) Best Student 2017 award for her hard work, commitment and talent.

She works with a gardening gang in the council's neighbourhoods team.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for children's services Councillor Simon Hackett said: "It's great to see these young people working so hard to achieve their qualifications. An apprenticeship is a great step onto the career ladder and at the council we're doing all we can to support people to gain qualifications and experience that can lead to a great career."

The apprentices, who all work at the council's cemeteries or in grounds maintenance, were presented with certificates of achievement by the college's chief executive principal Graham Morley. He congratulated them on their achievements and told them how he too began his career as an apprentice.

Graham said: "All of these apprentices should be extremely proud of themselves. What they do makes a real difference to the vibrancy and prosperity of Sandwell, the contribution each of them makes to their local area should not be underestimated."

Joining forces to tackle nuisance off-road bikers

MENACING off-road bikers who have disrupted parks in the Midlands are to be targeted by a new emergency services partnership.

West Midlands Police have joined forces with Sandwell Council and West Midlands Fire services to stamp out disruptive behaviour in the borough.

The partnership was unveiled at Warrens Hall Park in Dudley where it was revealed forces will use Brigade Response Vehicles to collar nuisance off-road motorbike riders. The four-wheeled vehicle will also allow those in response to assist patrolling areas standard vehicles fail to reach and catch those caught fly-tipping or starting grass fires.

Haden Cross Fire Watch Commander Jason Jew said: "When our crews come out and attack these issues such as grass and fly tipping fires, we're also trying to address instances of anti-social behaviour involving off-road motorcycles.

"Obviously off-road motorcycles pose a threat to my crews that are attending these fires and tackling these fires but also any people that are actually using the parks, dog walkers and cyclists.

Impound

"In relation to statistics, it is on the increase and it's an emerging risk not only in Warrens Hall Park, we've got issues in Wednesbury, which is Friar Park, we've got issues in Tipton.

"I would like to think that the public are going to be behind us because obviously it's going to make communities of the West Midlands safer."

The partnership aims to ease the work load of West Midlands Police, helping them identify those causing the disturbance and allowing them to impound vehicles.

An evaluation period over the next couple of months will determine the continuation of the partnership and if successful plans have been made for it to be used on a yearly basis.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for public health and protection Councillor Elaine Costigan said: said: "The launch is absolutely amazing. There's a major problem across the borough with motorbikes and fires, and I think this initiative is just absolutely fantastic how the council and everybody's come together."

From left, Rachael Myers, Councillor Elaine Costigan, watch commander Jason Jew, Jason Brunt from Streetbikes and Insp Gavin Peever, launch the initiative at Warrens Hall Park in Dudley

Metro car park blaze probe called off

A FIRE that spread from a hedge into six cars is no longer being investigated by police, a spokesman has confirmed.

Three fire crews were called to Wednesbury Parkway metro stop on Wednesday after the blaze.

It left three cars badly burned and three others also charred.

The fire started in some grass and 'unfortunately spread' to the vehicles, according to police.

A British Transport Police spokesman said the force will not be conducting any further inquiries. He said: "This was a grass fire which very unfortunately spread to the vehicles."

Three fire crews were called to Wednesbury Parkway, off Leabrook North Road, at 4.19pm.

Hose jets were used to tackle the fire, which started in a hedge. It was out by 5pm. Jon Stratin was the first at the scene and called the fire service. He said: "It was crazy."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fitness scheme is still running

A CAMPAIGN to keep youngsters fit, active and well-fed during the summer holidays is still available to join.

Fitness in the Community and Active Play is bringing its Fit and Fed campaign to The Glebe, Birmingham, for young disadvantaged people at risk of holiday hunger, isolation and inactivity. The programme will include multi-sport fitness activities such as short tennis, ultimate Frisbee, football, basketball, dance and relay races, as well as giving those who take part a healthy meal.

It will run from Monday to Friday at The Glebe until September 1. For details visit www.streetgames.org/

Two-mile run to aid heroes' cause

RUNNERS are being asked to put their best foot forward in a two-mile run for Help for Heroes next week.

The run starts at Farley Park Lodge, in Whitehall Road, Great Bridge, on Wednesday, at 10.30am.

Organisers say entertainment and light refreshments are provided after.

Councillor Ann Jarvis, town lead member for Tipton, said: "The fun run is open to adults and children and raises money for a great cause."

For details, contact Stevie Pearce, neighbourhood officer at Tipton Local Office, on 0121 368 1166.

Summer events now nearing end

SUMMER activities in Sandwell's parks have attracted hundreds of young people, according to council chiefs.

Sandwell Council's Youth Service is nearing the end of its series of summer events in the borough's parks.

The final sessions will be held at Victoria Park in Smethwick on Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31.

Councillor Simon Hackett said: "My family and I really enjoyed going along to Redhouse Park. It was great to see young people enjoying these free activities."

Extension planned for sixth form hub

PLANS to expand a Bloxwich secondary school have been submitted to Walsall Council.

The Walsall Academy, in Lichfield Road, wants to build an 'employability hub' in a two-storey extension to the rear of its main building.

A statement on the application submitted to the council reads: "The centre will provide a level of opportunity for professional learning not currently supported by existing facilities."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Never mind nuclear, we talk about burger size

IT is strange how different countries have different priorities. While Donald Trump squares up to that strange little man in North Korea, and the pair threaten each other with nuclear weapons, our own government has a very different target in its sights. Oversized beefburgers.

Public Health England is drawing up new guidelines to reduce the calories in popular foods such as burgers, crisps and sausage rolls. Manufacturers will either have to change the ingredients, or make the burgers thinner, and the crisp packets smaller. Hmm, I wonder which they will choose?

Personally, I can't see it working. After all, you may have noticed that Wispa bars in multi-packs are smaller than they used to be. I certainly have. Which is why I now eat two every lunchtime.

❒❒❒

YOU might remember a few years ago, there was a big furore about how then education secretary Michael Gove was making A-levels tougher to restore their credibility. You know, less coursework, more exams, recalling and analysing facts rather than telling us how they feel. That sort of thing.

Well, Sally Collier, head of the exam regulator Ofqual, thought this was a bit harsh, and lowered the pass mark to compensate.

"I want the message to be that students have done fantastically well. All our kids are brilliant," she said.

But surely, the whole point of the exams is to find out who is brilliant at what, so they can tailor their careers accordingly.

Imagine you are an academically talented teenager, who knew the exams would be tough, and worked day and night get the best results possible. Then you discover that Neil out of The Inbetweeners has got the same grades as you, because the exam regulator says "all kids are brilliant". I think I would feel slightly narked.

Neil probably won't be too chuffed either when he finds that all his inflated grades entitle him to is the right to spend the next few years racking up thousands of pounds of debt on a qualification worth slightly more than a roll of Andrex.

Wasn't it better for everybody when A-grades were few and far between, when only the top 20 per cent or so went to university, and they didn't have to pay for it? It also meant that instead of entering adulthood with crippling debts, the remaining 80 per cent did useful vocational courses that led to skilled, well-paid jobs.

Highlighting hares' horrors as pair of heroes pass

Cowboy Glen – gone, but not forgotten, including of course, his famous football

Hare today, but gone tomorrow? thanks to vicious country pursuit in east England

Ty died – the death of a famous TV cowboy and film star, with an amazing real name

Goodbye to Glen and Ty, best of the west

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

PANORAMA (BBC1) revealed this week that the number of arrests for drunkenness on UK flights or at British airports has soared by 50 per cent in a single year. Although I've had the occasional tipple at 30,000 feet, I have never entirely understood why airports have bars, why drunks are allowed to board planes and why airline staff, who have to deal with the consequences, are expected to sell booze. It wouldn't happen on the Number 47 bus so why does it happen on an Airbus?

NOT so long ago, any pointless action was described as "taking coals to Newcastle." I was reminded of it a few days ago sitting in the sunshine at a cafe beside Rutland Water, one of the biggest reservoirs in England and drinking bottled water, imported from Scotland.

IF you're strapped for cash and your kids are still tiny and impressionable, you could probably take them to Rutland Water, which extends over 3,000 acres, for a day and convince them it was the seaside. I had a colleague whose child was four before she twigged that the "Alton Towers" her father took her to every weekend was actually a car wash.

WHY have the cops not managed to catch the jogger who infamously knocked a woman pedestrian almost into the path of a bus in London three months ago? Probably because in police terms it wasn't much of an incident: pedestrian knocked over, only slight bruises. It is only when the CCTV footage is publicised that the judgement and emotions of the Great British Public take over from the police assessment and it becomes the crime of the century. The video horrifies ordinary people. The man is a brute, the woman is defenceless and did you see how close she came to that bus? A man wrongly arrested for the incident (he was in America at the time) has received death threats, so God knows what the mob will do when the real offender is nicked.

A SUDDEN rise in hare coursing in eastern England has been blamed on an early harvest leaving the fields clear. Well, that may be part of the explanation. But the real reason for killing hares with greyhounds is that some people who like to think of themselves as countryfolk are actually sadistic morons.

I CAME across a website this week identifying which of today's second-hand cars will become "a future classic." The snag, as all motorists know from bitter experience, is the ruinous cost of keeping a banger long enough for it to become a collector's item. Future classic = present money-pit.

I WRITE from family experience. In 1971 my father parted with a troublesome Aston Martin for £1,400 and was glad to get that much. A similar model was auctioned last month for £495,000.

AFTER this week's item on the late Glen Campbell, a reader tells me of a friend who thought the Wichita Lineman was a song about a football match.

A MOGGIE called Ash appeared in a national newspaper as a cheerleader for the latest fad, walking your cat. Ash, wearing a lead, was taken on a three-day hiking trip to Snowdonia and was pictured sitting on a Welsh hillock, allegedly enjoying himself. But he didn't look happy. His eyes and body-language seemed to say: "Please take me home."

CATS are not natural tourists. They love their own little territory. And while some, including our old tabby, enjoy walking with humans, they do it on their own terms and reserve the right to vanish into the hedgerow or dash home. The moment you put a lead on a cat, you try to turn it into something it isn't. And while some good-natured cats will put up with it, others will invoke the cat's ultimate four-footed revenge, and walk out on you.

IT was a bad enough shock to hear that our 1950s cowboy hero Ty Hardin has just died aged 87. But the greater shock was to discover his real name. The man we remember as rootin' tootin' Bronco Layne was Orison Whipple Hungerford Jr.

TALKING POINT

Gearing up for a greener transport

WE live in a world which is being defiled by humankind.

The population explosion over the past decades has seen the Earth set inexorably on course for ecological devastation.

Roads heave with chugging, dirty-fuelled 4x4s and older cars which now go on forever, but which cannot claim to be pollutant-free.

Like drones we line up at the traffic lights, inches away from the car in front as a driver of usually a German car (more often than not!) tries to push in from the right – what kind of existence is this? Surely, there is another way.

The argument for electric cars rattles on, but this is simply rearranging the chairs on the Titanic, as the majority of power stations linked to the National Grid are generated by fossil fuels – so that means it's damaging the atmosphere.

But wait, there may be a Lycra-clad answer to all our problems – those magnificent men and women on their pedalling machines.

Bikes are all about these days, with Britain's ongoing successes in the Olympics and alike. A few years ago a survey was carried out which put the UK in 10th place as the most bike-friendly nation in Europe, with Denmark and Holland sharing top spot. This does not translate itself to the roads however, when at times it can feel more like a war of attrition, sharing lanes with motorised traffic.

I don't seek to defend idiots who think they own the road, two abreast or more. Cyclists should know their position in the pecking order, and it is the ones who think they can jump lights, weave in and out of traffic at speed and not consider pedestrians, who will always give the rest of us who just want to get to work, or ride for the fun of it, a bad name.

On the horizon there are self-charging electric bikes being developed, which will mean we don't all have to be Bradley Wiggins to get around, and even with the technology of electric bikes available now, they are the most environmentally-friendly personal transport available on the roads.

In the meantime however, the message to all road users should be that bikes are here to stay and the police now focus more than ever before on inconsiderate drivers who pose real dangers to cyclists with their thoughtless actions. Nearly 19,000 incidents in 2015 resulted in injury to cyclists on UK roads, with 100 killed.

One last message to anyone on the saddle though – make sure you've got a blooming bell!

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Housing crisis is ignored

ALL we keep on hearing is we need more houses from the three main political parties. I think the whole of the country knows this.

This is not new, it's been known since the late 1960s. Have any of the two main political parties done anything about it? No. All they had to do was control the population in the 1960s according to census. The average family was two and a half children, this was all families could support on their wages. Then the country went raving mad, jumping into anybody's bed, the result children created and not wanted, result according to some MPs, the state will provide, correction, the taxpayer will provide. Sex education in schools is a waste of money, plus an open door policy.

If parliament was a private company, all MPs would be sacked for incompetence. Instead they get a golden handshake and a knighthood, and they wonder why people cannot be bothered to vote. I am not in favour of another 'Cromwell', but he did kick out the corruption in Parliament.

MR B LAWLEY
Bilston

Appeal for help to find relatives

I HOPE someone can offer help with past or current family of Agnes or Abraham. They were married at Tipton Parish Church in August 1912. Abraham died in Flanders May 1915. Agnes later gave birth to my Mother Gladys in 1917 in Tipton. In the 1950s & 60s I visited relatives in Tipton, from Leeds where Agnes later lived and married Walter Wineley. My contact is philipjcrowther@hotmail.com

PHILIP CROWTHER
West Yorkshire

Senseless junk left on TV today

I CANNOT understand the poor standard of TV programmes nowadays. Apart from the few and ever diminishing number of good ones, most are tasteless, talentless, senseless junk. Lacking in particular is quality light entertainment with talented performers.

To give one example, years ago we had dozens of pianists all giving most enjoyable performances. We know there are others out there just waiting for an opportunity. As for modern so called comedians they cannot compare with their predecessors.

As for the BBC it has degenerated from the finest organisation you could wish for to a money gobbling monster.

It is very good at exposing rip-offs, but not a word about the biggest rip-off of the lot, the BBC itself.

It is grossly over staffed and awash with grossly overpaid tax dodgers.

MR J SAUNDERS
West Bromwich

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

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Dementia friendly awards cal by star

I AM delighted to be hosting Alzheimer's Society's fourth annual Dementia Friendly Awards this year. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate those people who are making an outstanding contribution towards improving the lives of those affected by dementia.

I feel certain that there will be many individuals living in the West Midlands who should have their work within the dementia community recognised and would be worthy nominees for one of our awards. Individuals can nominate themselves – or others, and there are a whole range of awards across 10 categories to recognise outstanding work in this area of increasing importance to the whole community. Further information can be found at alzheimers.org.uk. The closing date for entries is midnight on August 21.

ANGELA RIPPON
Alzheimer's Society ambassador

Grenfell is sparking an endless fire

THE flames might be out, and the thick poisonous smoke dispersed, but the heat of Grenfell Tower is getting hotter, and what started as a fire in the kitchen is now a wild fire spreading across Britain, and a government that promised so much is already moving the financial responsibility away from Westminster and into the town halls.

It's always said that the only time politicians tell the truth is when they say nothing, and the silence from our MPs is deafening.

We have a housing crisis, and the money in council coffers is needed for house builds. So the movement of responsibility means that the money set aside for building houses, is going to be spent on the cladding of tower blocks, and more than likely council tax increases, so the Government's ricky words and false promises lie dead in the ashes of Grenfell.

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Backing on car dealer prosecution

A CROOKED second-hand car dealer who sold unroadworthy cars could have caused a tragedy on the roads, a trading standards boss has said.

Bob Charnley, manager at Sandwell trading standards, hailed the prosecution of Arslaan Asif, who ran Wednesbury Cars and was given a suspended jail sentence last week.

The 28-year-old was warned a dangerous Volkswagen Polo he sold could have killed its driver and passengers, as well as others nearby.

Asif was sentenced to eight weeks in prison, suspended for 18 months, at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court and fined £2,650.

Mr Charnley said: "This is an excellent result because this was a very serious case where dangerous cars were being sold to innocent members of the public. This could have led to tragic events."

Councillor Elaine Costigan, cabinet member for public protection at Sandwell Council, said: "It is vital that these cases are pursued so that the public are protected from the sale of dangerous vehicles."

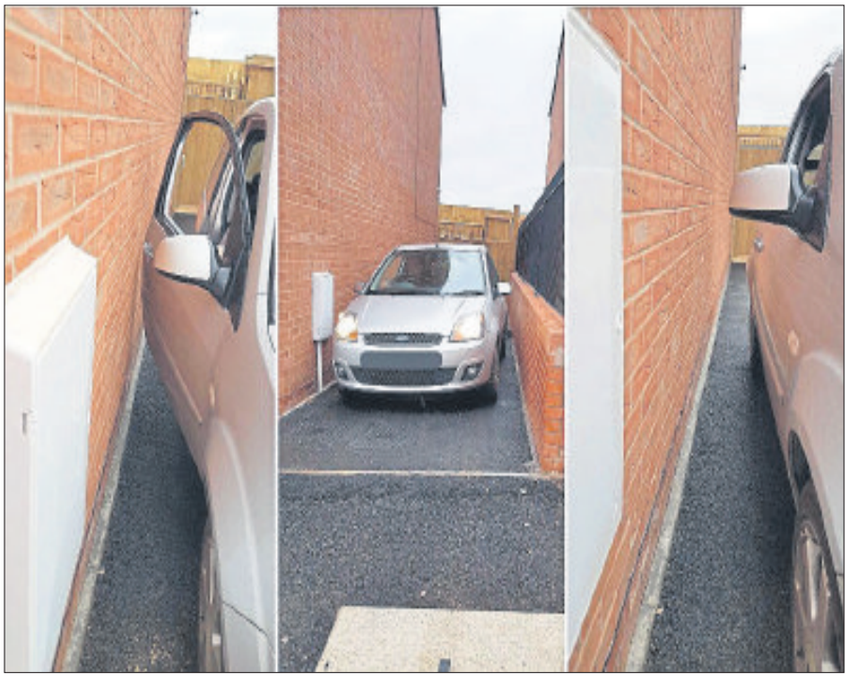
Oncology hope by trust chiefs

NHS bosses have said they are working to ensure cancer patients in a Black Country borough will not have to make trips to Birmingham to see a specialist.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham is planning to withdraw its oncologists who currently treat patients at Sandwell Hospital.

An NHS improvement spokesman said they were, "working closely with both trusts to ensure that high-quality services continue to be provided locally to patients across Sandwell and West Birmingham."

Unique parking problem drives couple up the wall



A composite view of the drive in Deer Park Drive, Great Barr, where the Jones's have lived since February

USUALLY drivers are adept at manoeuvring into spaces which can be a tight squeeze – but this is one even Lewis Hamilton might struggle with.

Couple Paul and Zena Jones say they have been stuck trying to park in the driveway next to their new home in Great Barr since they moved in. They branded the situation 'frustrating' after claiming their driveway only measures 89 inches – or 7ft 4ins – wide. They struggle to open the doors of their Ford Fiesta and claim to be unable to get out of the car.

Paul, aged 34, has since set up his own Twitter page – @DeerParkNoDrive – in a bid to highlight concerns.

They also tweeted out pictures showing their friend's car to illustrate the issue.

The couple bought the house, having seen designs, in a leasehold part ownership agreement for £90,000 along with housing association Walsall Housing Group from developer Taylor Wimpey.

They moved into their home, in Deer Park Drive, in February this year.

Positioned

But when they first arrived on the day they received their keys they were stunned to find the narrow driveway.

"We pulled the car on and couldn't believe it. We couldn't get the door open," said Zena, aged 54.

The couple claim the width of the driveway is 89 inches, narrowing to 86 inches where an electric box is positioned on a outer wall.

After reporting the issue to Taylor Wimpey they feel they have yet to hear a resolution to the issue.

"It is really frustrating. We have exhausted all ways of trying to get them to listen," said Mrs Jones.

Mrs Jones said: "We've had people look at it three times yet we're getting nowhere.

"All we want is a bit of communication.

"We keep being passed from pillar to post."

Her daughter Sam, 26, had also tried to pull her Fiat 500 car on the drive but claims not to be able to open the door to get out.

Taylor Wimpey or Walsall Housing Group have yet to respond to the Express & Star.

Paul and Zena Jones who encountered a narrow drive outside their new home

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Firm reels back the years with cinema

How the cinema will look following the £2 million revamp

AN historic former cinema which has been derelict for years will be brought back to life as part of a £2 million investment.

Films will be shown from the old Gaumont Cinema in Wednesbury for the first time in 40 years, as exciting plans to bring the building back to its former glory were revealed.

A major refurbishment will create a 900-seater five-screen venue, and bring 30 new jobs.

Independent chain Picturedrome Cinemas has unveiled the ambitious plans to rescue the relic.

Work on The Gaumont could start as early as next month and the venue is expected to re-open next summer.

The company said the building would keep its Art Deco features and that its appearance both inside and out will be retained 'as much as possible'.

Adam Cunard, managing director of Picturedrome Cinemas, said the chain was "known for its quality of service and comfort as well as its low prices."

He added: "The Gaumont will be no exception, with £2.50 admission for everyone on weekdays and £3.50 at weekends."

Freeview problems warning over masts

TV VIEWERS in Wednesbury have been warned that newly-installed 4G mobile phone masts may be causing interference to their Freeview service reception.

Signs of interference include a blocky picture, loss of sound or a 'No signal' message. A special programme called at800 has been set up to provide support.

A spokesman for the service said that there is a small chance that some 4G mobile signals transmitted at 800 MHz will cause interference to Freeview, which is TV received via an aerial.

Because 4G at 800 MHz signals sit next to the frequencies used by Freeview, they can overload the receivers in TVs and set-top boxes causing interference.

Ben Roome, CEO of at800, said: "If anyone relies on Freeview for TV, we can arrange for one of our accredited engineers to visit homes to fix Freeview interference caused by 4G signals, free of charge.

"If anyone uses Freeview alongside other TV services, we can send free filters which block mobile signals

By David Banner

that are easy to fit to the aerial lead connecting to TVs and set-top boxes."

Cable and satellite TV, like Sky or Virgin, won't be affected.

at800 also offers extra support for people who are 75 years of age or older, are registered blind or partially sighted or receive any of the following benefits: personal independence payments (PIPs); attendance allowance; constant attendance allowance or War Pensioner's Mobility Support.

With more 4G masts due to go live, any viewers who experience new interference should call at800 on: 0808 13 13 800 (free from landlines and mobiles) www.at800.tv/contact-us

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Ian Steel gets the 1951 Tour of Britain Trophy from Vic Davies, MD of Viking Cycles

Bob Thom with his Viking Team in front of their Morris van

Ian Steel in the 1952 Tour of Britain with Viking's Stan Blair and Bob Thom

Ian Steel powering ahead racing for the Viking team

Wheels of Steel helped put city on cycling map

BEFORE Chris Froome and Bradley Wiggins, before even Wolverhampton's own Hugh Porter, British road racing had a Wolverhampton based cycling hero, Ian Steel, winner of the Peace Race in 1952, an event even more arduous than the Tour de France.

Ian rode for Wolverhampton's famous Viking Team, managed by Bob Thom, himself a British Road Race Champion.

In the period just after the War when Wolverhampton's Percy Stallard was leading a revolt against the National Cyclists Union (NCU), the governing body which was totally against road racing, and tried to sabotage all such events, Percy formed the British League of Racing Cyclists.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

Bob Thom was recruited to manage the local Viking team, and Ian Steel soon became its star.

He won the 1951 Daily Express Tour of Britain, in which the NCU had tried and failed to block foreign teams from competing.

Gruelling

In 1952 the BLRC entered a team, managed by Percy Stallard, in the Peace Race, 1,265 miles in 12 stages through Poland Germany and Czechoslovakia, the most gruelling amateur international stage race on the planet, usually dominated by Eastern Bloc riders.

Managed superbly by Stallard, the British team shepherded Ian Steel to victory by two minutes 35 seconds from Jan Vesely, the Czech double World champion.

The Union Cycliste Internationale were so impressed they awarded the BLRC associate membership, and ordered the horrified NCU to co-operate, and put British cycling road racing in order. Ian Steel's career was cut short when he was riding in the Tour de France in 1955 for the British team.

His chances were ruined by the orders given him by the team manager, who also managed a rival team to Viking, and tried to favour one of his own.

Ian was was so upset he quite the Tour the next day, and gave up race cycling altogether.

The Viking Team raced on, and Bob Thom, and his son, also named Bob, were coaches and managers of British road and cyclo-cross teams for many years to come.

Bob Thom on the cover of the Viking brochure

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Exhibition to show Paradise proposals

DETAILED plans for the next office building to be constructed as part of the £700 million Paradise Birmingham development are to be displayed at a public exhibition next month.

With work on the first two buildings – One and Two Chamberlain Square – and enhancement of Chamberlain Square under way, proposals for One Centenary Way have been prepared.

They will be presented to the public on the seventh floor of 77 Paradise Circus between 8am and 8pm on Tuesday, September 5.

The exhibition will outline the detailed proposals for the new circa 290,000 sq ft office building, designed by Birmingham-based Glenn Howells Architects. With space for shops and restaurants at ground and upper ground level, the new building will overlook the redesigned Centenary Square and open onto Centenary Way, the wide pedestrian boulevard that will link Chamberlain and Centenary Squares.

It will enable local businesses, residents and other interested parties to view the proposals and ask questions of the project team prior to submission of the detailed planning application in late 2017.

Argent, development manager for the scheme, is preparing to submit the planning application for One Centenary Way on behalf of Hermes Investment Management.

For those unable to attend the exhibition, the proposals for the planning application will be available to view at www.paradisebirmingham.co.uk from September 5.

A computer generated image showing the building from Centenary Square

Visitors enjoy big debate

YOUNG people from countries including Brazil, China and Australia took part in a debate in Sandwell Council's chamber.

A group of 38 young people on a cultural exchange, organised by the Lions Club International Youth Centre, spent an afternoon at the council house and met councillors as well as the mayor, Councillor Ahmadul Haque.

Sandwell Lions Club arranged the visit which also included a trip to the Balajhi Hindu Temple, Sandwell Valley Country Park, and ended with fish and chips and a skittles competition at Thimblemill Library.

Councillor Haque said: "It was a pleasure to host part of the group's trip to Sandwell and show them around the council chamber."

Sandwell Lions Club president Melissa Murphy said: "It was a great opportunity to welcome our young visitors from all over the world to Sandwell."

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Jane's good heart gets her on board campaign

SHE'S the mum-of-two who was featured on the back of buses across London after fronting a national campaign to raise awareness of heart failure.

Nurse Jane Stubley also appeared on the ITV1 show Good Morning Britain to talk about the issues around the condition, which is one of the 10 biggest killers in England.

So it's no wonder she heads up one of the country's leading heart failure teams at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

Jane, aged 53, established the heart failure service at Sandwell Hospital in 2001 and has built up the team to where it is today, across Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals and Primary Care Trusts. "I really wanted to raise awareness about heart failure as many people have a false perception about the condition," Jane said when quizzed about the campaign.

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally. Last year, the trust provides care from 150 locations.This week we highlight:

JANE STUBLEY
Lead heart failure nurse

Clinicians

"There are many reasons that may cause the heart not to function properly, but patients with heart failure can live for so many years with a high quality of life. It all depends on how they see the condition and the treatment and support they are given by clinicians."

And what makes her even more special is that she works extra hard to support her colleagues to attend training outside the NHS, so they can improve their skills and provide better care to patients.

Jane, who likes to holiday in Wales with her husband, explained: "I know that education is the key to helping our nurses realise their full potential and that will directly benefit our patients. So I have created the Heart Failure charity fund within our organisation's Your Trust charity. This fund aims to support our nurses to go on courses, so they can learn more about heart failure and improve their understanding of the needs of patients."

As a high-profile clinician in this area, it is no surprise to learn that Jane has been asked to teach at different universities, provide training programmes, and be part of national projects to improve palliative care. She donates all the money she earns through this to the charity fund. She said: "I just thought it's a good way to give a little extra back to the NHS and improve our patient experience.

"I am glad to have Your Trust Charity support me all the way from fundraising to giving the money to the right cause. The fund enables patients to receive better care and make them feel reassured that they are in the right place and cared by high quality nurses."

Jane, a keen pianist, is also very proud of her team, she said: "They are all hard working and passionate about their work." It's no surprise to learn her own heroes are those she has worked with, cardiologists Dr Russell Davis, and Dr Terri Millane.

"They are always willing to listen to us, share their skills and knowledge with the heart failure nurses. They enable us to take expert consultant care into the homes of our patients, they always support and encourage us to improve and remain up to date with the latest research which enhances care of heart failure patients ," she said.

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No more ladies in weight-ing with strength contest move

A NEW ladies open division has been added to a Midland's strongman competition for the first time in its history. Into its seventh year and following large demand the Sandwell Strongest Man will now see women go head-to-head.

Last year around 20 people signed up to the two-day event, with up to 1,200 watching. Event co-organiser Simon Foster said: "We have had quite a lot of interest since we have moved up to Sandwell Valley from ladies."

Mr Foster explained why the decision was made for this year's event, at Sandwell Valley Park on Sunday and Monday.

"We had a lady in the deadlift, she was spectating in the crowd at last year's show and she performed admirably. We got our heads together after last year's show and decided that we would like to offer ladies the chance to compete.

"There are more and more events now that are starting to put women's open categories, like UK's strongest woman, it's definitely something that's on the increase.

Research

"We have tried to match the events up as equally as possible, we have taken advice from a number of services and we've done quite a bit of research."

Men under 80kg and ladies open division will compete on the first day with men's 81-100kg and over 101kg competing on the second and final day of the event.

Applications will be open until the day of competition, and can be made on the Sandwell Leisure Trust website. To download a form visit: www.slt-leisure.co.uk/news/sandwells-strongest-2017-events-revealed

Merry Hill will offer more eating

A NEW coffee shop and a restaurant will be coming to a major Black Country shopping centre in the latest stage of its regeneration.

A Starbucks branch will open on the upper level of Merry Hill, transforming part of a car park, while a restaurant will be another new addition.

It follows an announcement from Merry Hill owners Intu that £100 million of improvements will be made at the shopping centre over the next few years, including a new cinema and a string of restaurants.

Developers say the two A3-units will 'complement' the existing retail offer at Merry Hill Retail Park.

They will be situated towards the top of the embankment near to The Boulevard and the rear of the existing car parking spaces. Pedestrian access will be via the existing car park.

Over the moon with shirts donation

Steve Davies and the Sierra Leone Walsall team last year, who have now received full playing kits

MEMBERS of the Walsall Supporters Trust board have thanked the club for their contribution towards sending kits out to Sierra Leone.

A relationship started between the club and people living in the West African country last year after Steve Davies, secretary of the Walsall FC Supporters' Trust, spread the word of the Saddlers to native football fans.

Now, as people living in the Freetown area recover from a mudslide which has taken hundreds of lives, official club shirts have been sent over to the Walsall FC Sierra Leone team set up as a reminder of the visit.

Mr Davies said: "On behalf of our members, the Trust Board would like to thank Walsall Football Club and WFC Commercial Manager Wayne Thomas for their kind donation of 16 shirts and 16 pair of shorts, previously used by the WFC reserve team throughout the 2015/16 season."

"Following recent events in the Freetown area of Sierra Leone which has seen more than 200 lives sadly taken in a mudslide, we can confirm that the Walsall FC Sierra Leone team are all safe and well."

If anyone has any items of Walsall FC related kit, including shirts, sorts, training kits, or football boots to donate to the team in Sierra Leone, please contact Steve Davies via email to walsall1888@aol.com.

Boss of police group calls for pay rise

WE need a pay rise – that is message from the boss of the body that represents the West Midlands' rank and file police officers.

Tom Cuddeford, chairman of West Midlands Police Federation, said it was time for the Government to show 'support and respect' for front line officers and backed calls for a 2.8 per cent pay increase.

Writing in 'Federation', the group's bi-monthly magazine, Mr Cuddeford said officers had been 'run ragged' and criticised delays in making a decision on this year's police pay review.

He wrote: "We appreciate that in reality there is no magic money tree, but there are also no magic police officers who can keep making ends meet despite the increased cost of living and their decreased real term wages.

"Police officers seem to be expected to perform all sorts of tricks as they try to provide the same service with fewer resources but maybe it's time the Government conjured up some solutions too?"

He said the Police Federation of England and Wales was calling for a 2.8 per cent pay rise to the Police Remuneration Review Board. A decision on the pay review was meant to be taken before the summer but has now been delayed until next month at the earliest.

Hospital cleared as alarm sounds

PATIENTS were evacuated from Russells Hall Hospital following a fire alarm. Fire crews attended the hospital on Monday morning but it turned out to be a false alarm.

The site was checked over by firefighters after the alarm went off around 10.50am but was given the all-clear.

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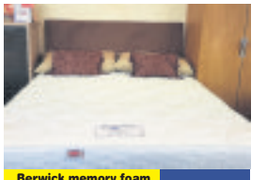
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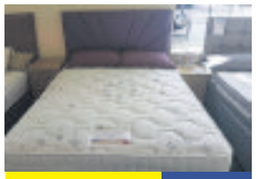
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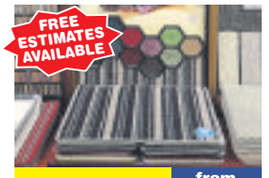
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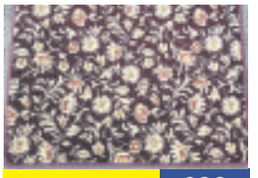
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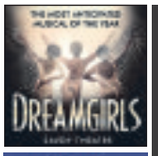

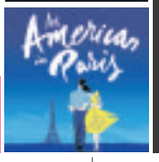

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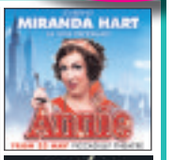

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Kristian takes the baton for city bid

Kristian Thomas and City of Birmingham rhythmic gymnast Mimi Cesar, outside the iconic Selfridges building

GYMNASTICS star Kristian Thomas proudly held the Queen's Baton aloft as the countdown to the Commonwealth Games reached the West Midlands.

Officials in Birmingham are hoping the baton will be passed onto the city – which is bidding to host the games after Australia in 2022.

The baton – which is the equivalent of the Olympic Torch – was in Birmingham to mark its bid to be in next in line for the prestigious competition.

Wolverhampton's Kristian, an Olympic bronze medallist and Commonwealth champion, who trains in Halesowen, posed in front of the Bullring shopping centre with the baton. He was among other stars who appeared in the city for the event, which came on the same weekend when Sir Mo Farah ran for the last time on the track in Britain at Birmingham's Alexandra Stadium.

The baton visited other landmarks including Birmingham Library, Edgbaston cricket ground and Brindley Place

Birmingham is going head to head with Liverpool for the right to host the Commonwealth Games in 2022. It will be held in Gold Coast, Australia, next year.

If the bid is successful, part of the Black Country would be involved in hosting the competition.

I'm no hero, it was pure instinct to help victim

'I'M no hero – it was just instinct to go and help a child so badly injured.'

A father-of-two from Great Barr has described the moment he came to the aid of a young boy in the wake of the terrorist attack in Barcelona.

Talking from his Las Ramblas hotel, Harry Athwal, aged 44, told how he saw from his seat on the first-floor restaurant balcony the van used by terrorists plough into people. The project manager who lives off Newton Road, said: "I knew straight away what was happening and got up to run outside to see how I could help.

Harry Athwall, aged 44

"When I got out of the restaurant I ran into the middle of Las Ramblas – there were bodies strewn left and right around me including a child right in the middle of it all. It was the one thing which caught my eye and I ran straight to him.

"He was bad. His leg was broken and he was lying down on his front. There was blood on his face. The first thing I did was check his pulse, but there was nothing. The police are screaming at me to get out of the road in case of another van, but I was not going to leave this boy here. I have a son the same age. The next 10 minutes felt like an eternity. Eventually one [paramedic] came and a policeman ordered me away."

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Wedding smile back in a day

A cost-effective solution, the All-on-4™ therapy can offer new teeth in a single day. Encouraged by her granddaughter, a dental professional, super-nan Janet Harris opted for this lifestyle investment that has helped recapture her Big Day smile

Recovering her wedding day smile with the All-on-4 therapy is Jannet Harris. *Inset:* **The Big Day image from which Steven Burchell had to work**

WHEN Janet Harris's smile was compromised she knew exactly what she wanted from her dentist."Definitely no dentures," the super-nan says emphatically.

"My mother had more sets of false teeth than I have fingers, she could never master them and I'm sure I couldn't either," she adds.

"I wanted something just like my own teeth – there's nothing like them – and I didn't want brilliant white teeth either . . . they look ridiculous on someone my age," says the spritely 70-something-year-old financial controller, who works full-time for her family profile cutting business.

Memorable moment

"No," she affirms, taking a black and white wedding album picture from her handbag. "I wanted teeth like those in this photograph when I was 19, natural and not too white." Snapped on her Big Day with husband Colin and brother Brian at the then newly-built Catholic church in Whiteheath, Janet was determined to recover the smile of that memorable moment.

She admits to being lucky with her native teeth and the dentistry she has received since she was child.

But after surviving an astonishing 30 years, three teeth on an upper left bridge fell out. "I also had five teeth at the front on a bridge and I knew it was time to get some new dental work done," she says.

With care, it's possible for bridges to last up to eight years.

"I'd lost a few back teeth when I was a girl. Mum, who was terrified of the dentist, didn't believe in fillings and I was dispatched with my father to have teeth out," she adds.

Those memories of having gas extractions, the predictable sickness afterwards and "the horrible, black rubber mask" are vivid, but Janet still braved regular dental appointments throughout her life. She recalls how her friend attended a questions and answers open day at North Street Dental and Implant Clinic after experiencing problems with a prosthetic prescription and recommended her to chat with the friendly staff.

'No pain'

After initial consultations with implant surgeon Owain Rees BDS DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) and Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), Janet continued to research her clinical options.

"I started coming [to the surgery] every other week to be clear in my own mind about the decision on the treatment. Everyone was patient with me and very helpful answering my questions," says Janet.

Deciding on an All-on-4 option, a system where her full upper arch of teeth is secured on four strategically sited implants, the procedure was completed within a single day.

"I came in on a Wednesday at 9am and by 3.30pm I had my teeth in," she says.

With conscious sedation during the procedure, Janet was able to leave the surgery by 4pm. "I genuinely had no pain – well, except for the fact I couldn't have a glass of wine for a few days," she jokes.

And the wedding day look? "I've got a few more wrinkles now, but it's pretty close."

Adds Steven: "Using the picture to get the aesthetics right was helpful, but we went through a few hoops getting there as we considered the natural ageing process on the teeth.

"The result is a natural look that functions just like native teeth."

Predictably reassuring

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Students' healthy way to help in community

SANDWELL College has been shortlisted for two national awards as it further cements its key role within the community.

A striking mural created by students is in the running for a 2017 Community Rail Award.

The arts students' Smethwick Going Forward 'Love Thy Neighbour' mural at Rolfe Street Station is in the Community Art Schemes – Permanent Projects award category, while the station regeneration project, also worked on by college construction students, has been shortlisted for the Involving Diverse Groups award.

The college has links with London Midland, Network Rail and Transport for West Midlands.

Holistic

Meanwhile, continuing the work within the community, beauty therapy and healthcare students have been working with the Kissing It Better charity at Sandwell and City Hospitals.

They have provided holistic treatments and manicures to assist patients in their recovery from strokes and other serious illnesses. As part of the Sapphire Project, organised by ACRC and Age Concern, healthcare students have visited patients on wards and participated in voluntary placements to enrich their studies.

Carole Richardson of Kissing It Better said: "They all did amazingly well."

In addition beauty students have provided complimentary treatments at a community event held at Santander in West Bromwich High Street.

The bank branch invited the college to get involved alongside Barnardos on Track, Hope for Justice – highlighting modern day slavery, and TNCMC – raising awareness of the contribution of the Caribbean armed forces to the Commonwealth over the past century.

And Sandwell College recently held a community fun day to welcome local people to its Central Campus.

The summer fair was packed with a host of activities, including street theatre and music performances, a camper van selfie booth and fairground rides for all the family. Principal Graham Pennington said: "This is our opportunity to give something back to the community and encourage people to further their career aspirations with information on course applications."

Enrolment for all courses starts on GCSE results day, August 24, and continues through to September.

Students involved with the Kissing It Better charity at Sandwell and City Hospitals

A community event held at Santander based in West Bromwich High Street

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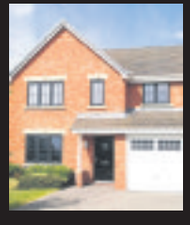

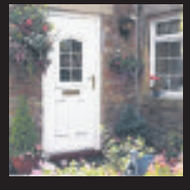

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Deborah's Led a life less ordinary

She hails from one of the greatest rock families of them all.

Rock'n'blues singer Deborah Bonham grew up as her big brother, John, was becoming the greatest drummer in music history. The Led Zeppelin powerhouse was fast, powerful and had his own distinctive groove. Though he died at the tragically young age of 32, he left a legacy that lasts to this day.

Deborah was eight or nine when Led Zeppelin started to take off. And she imagined that his 'job' – of touring the world, recording number one hit records and having fans fall at your feet – was perfectly normal. As you would, at the age of nine.

"Where John's talent came from, nobody can say. I think it's something you are born with. From the age of two or three, he was bashing pots and pans. When it took off for them, I was so young. I grew up with it. I grew up in the thick of it. I just thought that was a normal way of life. I thought you made an album and it went straight to number one.

"Believe me, I later learnt that was not always the case. But I was very young when he joined Led Zeppelin, I was only six or seven. I had a false understanding of the music industry to be fair. But I always knew I wanted to sing."

Not that John – or, indeed, Deborah's mother and father – wanted her to follow in her illustrious brother's footsteps. "It wasn't something my brother or mum and dad wanted me to happen. Especially after seeing what the industry was like, with John. He was right too. It wasn't any place that he wanted his kid sister to be.

"So I did a bit of opera singing to start with. But I just loved blues/rock. And I love performing live. I was always going to do it. You can't deny what's in your heart."

Her parents encouraged her to succeed at school instead of pursuing her improbable dreams of being a rock singer. She took their advice, to a point. "One great thing I did was learn to speak French at school. I sort of stuck with it and now, for me, one of the best places to tour is France. I often think of my brother and mum and dad telling me to stop at school and learn and I think of how I mastered French because, of course, it paid off. Except I use the language to help me sing the blues."

Deborah, who hails from Redditch, is back on her old stomping ground soon with a headline gig coming up at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on September 22. It's her second in the region in recent times. Back in May she headlined Birmingham's Symphony Hall with Paul Rodgers, the former Free vocalist who also sang with Queen. The Paul Rodgers gigs were a blast and Deborah is looking forward to being back in the West Midlands.

"I'm really excited about it. I can't remember the last time I played Wolverhampton, it was many years ago. I love it up there. Any chance I get to come and play up there is great. We did Symphony Hall with Paul Rodgers and that was one of the most amazing gigs."

She used to spend most of her life in the Black Country, hanging out with bands and watching gigs.

"We always used to come over. I saw Slade. I remember seeing them at the Wulfrun Hall and they were bloody brilliant. They were a real rocking band."

She also played a gig when 'Uncle' Robert Plant turned up to do a duet – much to the surprise of fans. That was at Huntingdon Hall, in Worcester, not far from Robert's Kidderminster home.

"Singing with Robert Plant, given our family's history with Led Zeppelin, was a massive moment. Robert's been like a brother or uncle to me. That was at Huntingdon Hall. He turned up and got up to sing with me, unbeknownst to the audience. That was a high moment. When things like that happen, it's an honour isn't it.

"But there's been a lot of amazing moments in my life. Every day I think how lucky I've been. I was a big fan of one of the all time greatest female vocalists, Ann Peebles, who had a hit witih I Can't Stand The Rain. We ended up doing something together, a few shows, and we recorded a version of Can't Stand the Rain.

"I've been extremely blessed because I've had the joy of playing with the most incredible people. To get up on stage with Humble Pie, when they reformed with Peter Frampton, was incredible and I guess the Paul Rodgers thing was another recent highlight."

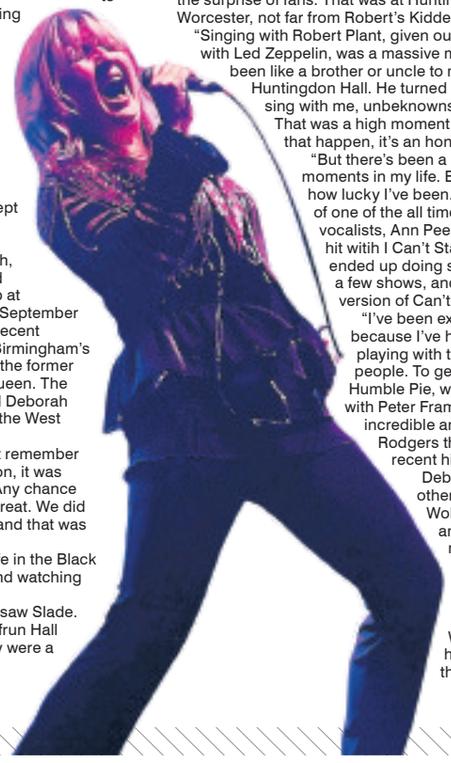
Deborah has other memories of Wolverhampton – and not all of them musical. Like so many Midlands rock stars, she's a fan of Wolverhampton Wanderers and has enjoyed seeing them play.

"It's the home ground of Wolverhampton Wanderers and I've got to say I'm a fan. I went to the Wolves on one occasion to see them play Liverpool. We thrashed them. We stopped off at those Bathams pubs on the way for a drink. Everybody thought we'd get thrashed but I think we must have put five passed them that day."

She's grateful for the way her life turned out and says she owes much of her success to growing up with John and the rest of her family in a musical household.

"I guess my mom and dad were very musical. My mom always sang a little, not seriously but, but she loved good music. They were fans of the big bands like Count Basie. That was pretty much John's focus too. My dad loved all the black soul divas like Lena Horne and Mahalia Jackson. He would play a lot of that music. I grew up listening to that. Both my brothers, John and Michael, got into the Motown stuff, as well as the rock. It was a real eclectic house. I was listening to Jimi Hendrix and Joplin and all of that, CSN and Fleetwood Mac, but I was also steeped in the British movement and The Kinks. Then Zeppelin took off and everything changed."

Singing the blues – Deborah Bonham returns to the Slade Rooms



Singing with Robert Plant, given our family's history, was a massive moment

- **Tickets are available from the venue.**
- **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Parquet Courts – album and tour

Holding Courts on matters of the heart

New York art rockers Parquet Courts follow their latest album Human Performance with a UK visit including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute next Thursday, August 31.

The band, who have a sound akin to Beck, Talking Heads and Franz Ferdinand, have released fifth album Human Performance, their second via Rough Trade.

Whereas other Parquets Courts albums were recorded in days or weeks, for Human Performance the band took an entire year and it's the first LP that finds all four band members contributing songs.

The album brings sonic experimentation and melodic introspection to matters of the heart, matters of humanity, of identity. "I told you I loved you, did I even deserve it when you returned it?" singer/guitarist Andrew Savage wonders on the title track. It's also their most pop-oriented collection yet, coming only months after the release of the largely instrumental Monastic Living EP, that was made at the same time.

Across six years, four full-length albums, and two EPs, Parquet Courts have littered their lyrics with question marks. If previous album 2014's Content Nausea – with Savage and Austin Brown recording as Parkay Quarts – looked at anxiety in the age of big data, then on Human Performance the question marks get turned on themselves.

"There is a lot of darkness, and general anguish being worked out on this record," Brown adds. "But it ends kind of peacefully, kind of accepting that you can't do much about it."

Cole gets a kick out of comedy venture

Comedy fans will be able to get their kicks at Walsall Football Club in a forthcoming feast of laughter.

The Just For Kicks show, to be staged at the Banks's Stadium on October 27, is the mastermind of Wednesbury-born comic Jonny Cole, pictured. It will feature TV comics Joe Lycett, from Birmingham, and Phoenix Nights' Archie Kelly alongside Dudley's Wayne Beese.

Cole is the driving force and he hopes to make it a regular feature. The former diesel salesman has emerged as an unstoppable musical-comedy force since his re-workings of well-known tunes have proved popular with audiences all over Britain. He was a headline act on the UK tour of A Black Country Night Out and has been a regular on local radio shows. He has even had a local beer named Fat Face in his honour by Stourbridge-based Sadler's Brewery.

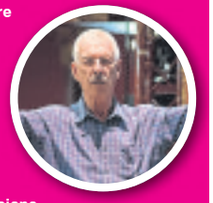
Cole said: "I'm really excited about this venture and hopefully it will become an on-going thing. The football club are right behind me and have given me the freedom to deliver a great night to remember. Even my family want to come to this one. Both Joe Lycett and Archie Kelly are big names on TV and it will be great for people to get to see them on the same bill in such a fantastic venue."

Lycett is currently working on new material for a national tour next year and has appeared on TV shows including Live At The Apollo, Taskmaster and Sunday Brunch.

Early bird tickets at £14 are available from Walsall Football Club on 01922 651416 or ticketing.co.uk/walsallfc.

For further information contact Jonny Cole on 07376 248521 or Wayne Thomas on 07551 170675.

Bold as brass at the Grand Theatre



Musicians and actors were in the wings last night (Wednesday) poised to deliver the first in-house production Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for 40 years. Brassed Off sees director Gareth Tudor Price working with professional and local amateur actors and musicians on the story of a pit band going for glory in a national brass band competition. Hi-de-Hi! star Jeffrey Holland, pictured, plays ex-miner and conductor, Danny. The play runs to September 2.

Get into the swing with vintage sounds

Fans of big band swing and jive dancing can get vintage kicks at Symphony Hall Birmingham this bank holiday Sunday when the prestigious concert hall is turned into a 1930s style ballroom.

Retro sounds will be heard when the Jim Wynn Swing Orchestra get their joint jumping with arrangements from such as Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman. The Swing Era will perform high-energy Lindy Hop routines after, earlier in the day, offering swing dance lessons at the venue's Ever-After Vintage Tea Dance. The event will also feature the Sugarfoot Stomp DJs. Tickets for the evening concert cost £22.50 to £27.50 and admission to the 11am and 2pm tea dance sessions are £12.50 to £18. No partners required but vintage dress encouraged. See thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

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SATURDAY'S TV AUGUST 26

CHOICE

Jack Whitehall

Festival Tales: Edinburgh at 70
(BBC2, 9pm)
Jack Whitehall traces the history of the Edinburgh Festival, as the annual event reaches its 70th anniversary. First conceived in 1947 as part of the 'healing process' for a Britain emerging from the misery and austerity of the Second World War, the Festival was considered a bastion of idealism, and the Fringe was brought into existence in the same year, bringing with it a form of creative anarchy. Jack reflects on the many ground-breaking encounters between artists, musicians, writers and performers that the Edinburgh Festival has facilitated over the years, and examines the role it has played in revolutionising art and culture both in the UK and abroad.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Diamond League Athletics: Zurich Highlights. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League Final. Wigan Warriors v Hull FC (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.30** Flog It! (R)
6.30 BBC News.
6.40 Regional Programme.
6.45 Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme. Nina Wadia, Gareth Malone, Vikki Stone and Ore Oduba help a pair of would-be poets battle through four rounds of rhyme-based challenges.
7.20 Pointless Celebrities. Lizzie Webb, Chris Steele, Robin Cousins, Rosemary Conley, Iwan Thomas, Katharine Merry, Dr Dawn Harper and Dr Pixie McKenna compete in a "health and fitness" edition of the quiz. (R)
8.05 Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series.
8.45 Casualty. Part two of two. The team of Holby medics continue their efforts to help migrant refugees in need of medical attention on the French coast. However, Dylan is fast becoming frustrated with how little he can offer the camp, and makes a decision he may come to regret. Meanwhile, back in the UK, Jez faces the repercussions of crossing paths with the Ellissons, as an improvised explosive is thrown through the window of his home, placing both Robyn and baby Charlotte in jeopardy.
9.35 Mrs Brown's Boys. Dermot's pre-marriage nerves get the better of him, so he locks himself away in a cupboard. Rory's secret is revealed to his mother. (R)
10.05 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.
10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Leicester City and Bournemouth v Manchester City.
11.55 People Just Do Nothing.
12.25 Film: In the Electric Mist. (2009) **2.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Coast. (R) **7.20 Film:** The Man in the White Suit. (1951) **8.45 Film:** The Magnificent Ambersons. (1942) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **10.55** Natural World: Beavers Behaving Badly. (R) **11.55 Film:** Bedknobs and Broomsticks. (1971) **1.50** Wanted Down Under. (R) **2.20** Mastermind. (R) **2.50** Only Connect. (R) **3.20** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.20** Final Score. **5.20** University Challenge. (R) **5.50** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. Culinary competition, hosted by Zoe Ball and Nadiya Hussain. (R)
6.50 Proms Extra. Katie Derham Soweto Kinch and John Butt review Bach's St John's Passion from Prom 49, and the Charles Mingus Prom, featuring Kandace Springs, Shabaka Hutchings and Christian Scott.
7.30 Nina Conti's Edinburgh Festival. The comedian and ventriloquist showcases some highlights of the festival, chatting to Irvine Welsh about his show Performers and meeting poet and musician Benjamin Clementine.
8.00 Iolo's Great Welsh Parks. Nature expert Iolo Williams visits Padarn Country Park near Llanberis in Snowdonia, hoping to see the likes of ring ouzel, wood warblers and pied flycatchers.
8.30 Dad's Army. Walker is caught smuggling Italian PoWs out of camp at night, but far from being a traitor, he is furthering the war effort – and making some money on the side. (R)
9.00 Festival Tales: Edinburgh at 70. Jack Whitehall reflects on the history of the Edinburgh Festival, and the role it has played in revolutionising art and culture on an international scale.
10.00 Performance Live: Get a Round. A trio of friends hell-bent on having a good time, wonder whether a big night out can save the world. Theatrical comedy, starring Sara Cocker, Lowri Evans and Leonie Higgins.
10.40 Film: The Help. (2011) An aspiring journalist in 1960s Mississippi creates controversy by giving black servants the chance to tell their stories. Drama, starring Emma Stone and Viola Davis.
1.00 Film: The German Doctor. (2013) Fact-based drama, starring Alex Brendemuhl. **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.25** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** ITV Racing: The Opening Show. **10.20** Gok's Lunchbox. (R) **11.15** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Chase. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing Live: York Ebor Festival. The fourth and final day of the festival. **3.55** Tipping Point. (R) **4.55** Little Big Shots USA. **5.50** Regional Programme ; Weather.
6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R)
7.15 Catchphrase. Amanda Tollan, Manish Mehta and Charlotte Myers set out to prove they can "see it and say it" as Stephen Mulhern challenges them to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000. (R)
8.00 Les Dawson Forever. Martin Clunes narrates a profile of the comedian, in which his daughter Charlotte Dawson examines the roots of her father's rise to fame. Roy Barraclough reveals how he and Dawson created some of their most famous comic creations, while Rick Wakeman reveals the secrets behind the comedian's trademark routines of deliberately off-key piano playing.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 Film: Captain Phillips. (2013) The captain of a cargo ship travelling around the coast of Somalia is taken hostage when pirates raid the vessel. Fact-based thriller, starring Tom Hanks and Barkhad Abdi.
12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.30** Motor Sport: Caterham. **7.00** Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Frasier. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.20** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Lee McKenzie presents coverage from Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps. **11.25** F1 Meets David Coulthard. **11.55** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the qualifying session at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** World's Most Expensive Cars. **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
6.55 Film: Ender's Game. (2013) In the future, the human race has survived conflict with an alien race, but the prospect of war breaking out again is a constant threat. A gifted boy is selected as a potential military commander for the coming conflict, and subjected to a gruelling training program to prove his worth. Sci-fi adventure based on Orson Scott Card's novel, starring Asa Butterfield, Harrison Ford and Ben Kingsley. Edited for violence.
9.00 Film: Dumb and Dumber To. (2014) Premiere. Dim-witted friends Harry and Lloyd are reunited after 20 years. When Harry discovers he has a daughter he never knew about, he breaks his friend out of a psychiatric hospital and they go on a road trip with the intention of fulfilling parental responsibilities neither of them is capable of. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels.
11.10 Film: Ted. (2012) A boy's magical living teddy remains his friend into adulthood, creating tension with his girlfriend. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg, with the voice of Seth MacFarlane.
1.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Gordon Ramsay revisits three restaurants he tried to save. (R) **2.00** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Darren plans to take Shane down, Mandy panics over a letter from social services and Brody sabotages Scott's plans. **4.10** Location, Location, Location. Phil Spencer heads to Nottinghamshire to help find a home for a couple who have spent most of their relationship living with their parents. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors: Rookies and Raids. (R) **1.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **2.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)
6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The enforcement agents try to mediate a dispute in a takeaway, and deal with rent evaders living in potentially deadly conditions. Plus, a businessmen faces financial ruin. (R)
7.00 Cricket on 5. England v West Indies. Highlights of the second day of the Second Test in the three-match series, which takes place at Headingley. With commentary and analysis from Mark Nicholas, Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.
8.00 Supernatural Nazis. New series. The role of occultism in Nazi Germany, revealing how religion and the supernatural were used in Hitler's pursuit of power. The first programme examines how the Nazis corrupted the teachings of Christianity to influence people to see Hitler as a messiah figure, and examines accusations that the Pope did too little to oppose them.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray presents highlights from the latest games in the Championship, which included Bristol City v Aston Villa at Ashton Gate, Nottingham Forest v Leeds United at The City Ground, and Middlesbrough v Preston North End at Riverside Stadium.
10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, which included Rochdale v Bury, Wigan Athletic v Portsmouth, Mansfield Town v Luton Town, and Yeovil Town v Coventry City.
10.30 Britain's Favourite Abba Songs. A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, with celebrity fans including Jane McDonald and Liz McClarnon introducing their favourite clips. (R)
12.00 Access. **12.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Delete. **4.30** Access. (R) **4.40** Great Scientists. (R) **5.10** Nick's Quest. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.15** Billy Fury: The Sound of Fury **12.45** Britain's Most Fragile Treasure **1.45** The World's Most Expensive Stolen Paintings **2.45** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **3.45** Close

ITV2
12.35 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **1.05** You've Been Framed and Famous! **2.10 Film:** Honey (2003) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15 Film:** Honey (2003) **4.05 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.55 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **8.00 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **10.10** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **1.05** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **2.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records: Bonkingly Big Hits **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
2.50 Film: Casablanca (1942) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55 Film:** Casablanca (1942) **4.55 Film:** The Queen (2006) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** The Queen (2006) **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Law & Order: UK **1.05** Wycliffe **2.00** Rising Damp **2.25** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
11.50 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **12.50** Minder **1.50** The Professionals **2.50** The Darts Show **3.15** World Series of Darts: Perth. **7.15** Women's Rugby World Cup 2017. **10.15** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.15 Film:** The Krays (1990) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25 Film:** The Krays (1990) **1.40** Minder **2.45** Sporting Funnies **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.05 Don't Tell the Bride **12.05** Streetmate **1.05** The Goldbergs **2.35** The Big Bang Theory **6.45 Film:** Shallow Hal (2001) **9.00 Film:** Immortals (2011) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.15** Tattoo Fixers **2.20** Rude Tube **3.15** Gogglebox **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.55** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4
11.00 The Dark Crystal (1982) **1.00** Chalet Girl (2011) **2.50** The Cat in the Hat (2003) **4.25** Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) **6.40** About Time (2013) **9.00** Lucy (2014) **10.40** The Guest (2014) **12.40** Taxi Driver (1976) **3.00** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV AUGUST 27

CHOICE

Tom Burke (left)

Strike – The Cuckoo's Calling (BBC1, 9.05pm)

New series. Supermodel Lula Landry falls to her death from a Mayfair balcony and the police conclude that she committed suicide, but Lula's adoptive brother John Bristow believes she was murdered and that key evidence has been overlooked. He calls upon private investigator Cormoran Strike to examine the death further and the penniless and effectively homeless PI takes the case. Crime thriller based on books written by JK Rowling under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith, starring Tom Burke and Holliday Grainger. The second episode will be shown tomorrow.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Fake or Fortune? (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35 Film:** Toy Story 2. (1999) Animated sequel, with the voice of Tom Hanks.

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Steve Brown present the show from the Llyn Peninsula on Wales' North West coast. Ellie explores the seagrass habitat and joins a marine conservation project studying the region's fish, while Steve meets dairy farmers who deliver their milk door to door and invents a new flavour of ice cream.

7.30 Diana, 7 Days. Documentary exploring the week following Princess Diana's death, with first-hand accounts from those who found themselves at the centre of the ensuing events, including then prime minister Tony Blair, members of the royal household, and family members including Princes William and Harry.

9.05 Strike – The Cuckoo's Calling. New series. Private detective Cormoran Strike is called in to investigate the apparent suicide of a supermodel. Crime thriller based on books by JK Rowling, starring Tom Burke. The second episode will be shown tomorrow.

10.05 BBC News.

10.25 Regional Programme.

10.35 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield, Chelsea v Everton at Stamford Bridge, Tottenham Hotspur v Burnley at White Hart Lane and West Bromwich Albion v Stoke City at the Hawthorns. The fixture at Anfield was an early chance for the Reds and Gunners to test themselves against another of the leading contenders, while Chelsea continued their title defence against the much-changed Toffees.

11.45 Live at the Apollo. Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life. (R)

12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.00** Garden Rescue. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Coast. (R) **1.45** Triathlon World Series: Stockholm. **3.30** Equestrian: European Championships.

6.00 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan joins a group of Bushmen in Botswana's Kalahari Desert to learn their ancient secrets for surviving on foot among wild lions. They teach him how to make fire, find honey, and gather water from desert plants, and the filmmaker watches as they hunt with poisoned arrows and track predatory lions. (R)

7.00 Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me. The first of two programmes in which Gordon Buchanan encounters a family of African elephants in the wilds of Kenya, and attempts to gain their trust so he can observe them up close in their natural habitat. He enlists the aid of an expert from the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust to learn about their behaviour as he follows an elephant with a new calf, and discovers what it takes for the youngest of the world's largest land animals to survive in the face of a challenging environment. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. The panel cast an eye over plans for furniture made from old aeroplane parts, organic dog treats, healthy snacks and a company that buys and sells books. Presented by Evan Davis.

9.00 Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? The candidates are put through more demanding tests as they are pushed to their limits in a simulated emergency splashdown.

10.00 Ill Behaviour. Charlie is assumed to have committed suicide. Joel decides to visit Kira so he can comfort her, and finds himself enjoying taking over his friend's role in the family.

11.00 Film: The Ides of March. (2011) A presidential campaign worker must decide where his loyalties lie as dark secrets come to light. Drama, directed by and starring George Clooney.

12.35 Film: Echoes from the Dead. (2013) **2.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Ninjago: Rebooted. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25 Film:** K-9. (1989) **11.15** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **12.55** Joanna Lumley's Postcards. (R) **1.25** Catchphrase. (R) **2.10** Long Lost Family. (R) **3.10** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **3.40 Film:** Superman. (1978) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve.

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.40 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Possibly the Best Adverts in the World. Hugh Dennis narrates a two-hour special in which celebrities select their favourite commercials from TV and the internet in a range of categories. Bill Bailey chooses adverts for food, Fay Ripley introduces health and beauty, Angus Deayton focuses on cars, Chris Ramsey looks at sweets, Joe Lycett tackles toys, and Chris Kamara looks back at cigarettes and alcohol.

9.05 Victoria. New series. The second series of the drama about the early years of Queen Victoria's reign begins after the birth of her first child. She resumes her royal duties sooner than expected, and quickly becomes convinced that her husband and the prime minister are concealing troubling news about the conflict in Afghanistan, and turns to the Duke of Wellington for answers. Victoria also faces problems at home, as Albert's family descend on the palace for the christening, and continue to make plans for the future of the monarchy.

10.10 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories. Barrister Robert Rinder reveals how the parents of a teenager killed by a speeding car campaigned for a change in the law that had allowed the driver to escape justice. (R)

11.20 5 Gold Rings. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Para Triathlon: Superhero Tri. **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live Build Up. Steve Jones presents a preview of the 12th round of the season. **12.35** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 12th round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.10** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live Reaction. **4.00** The Crystal Maze. (R) **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.30** 50 Greatest Kids Films.

7.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. George Clarke presents the Pubs and Entertainment and Unexpected categories. Unusual structures featured include a hedgehog rescue centre, a West Country whisky den, a recreation of the Tardis from Doctor Who, and the UK's smallest cathedral.

8.00 From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier. Levison Wood travels into the badlands of Dagestan, an area the foreign office warns against visiting. He experiences the hospitality of the local warrior clans and takes a journey on horseback to the ancient city of Derbent – with an armed guide to fend off wolves and bears. He then moves on to Azerbaijan, a country where extreme wealth exists alongside subsistence poverty.

9.00 Film: Taken 3. (2014) Premiere. Ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills' efforts to finally live a quiet life are shattered by the death of his ex-wife. Just when things seemingly can't get any worse, he is framed for her murder and must fight to clear his name. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson.

11.15 Film: The Wolf of Wall Street. (2013) A New York stockbroker rises from unemployment to become one of the richest men in the city's financial elite through an illegal scheme to defraud investors. His wealth brings him an outrageously debauched lifestyle, but comes at a price as the FBI become suspicious of his manipulation of the markets. Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

2.30 Speed with Guy Martin. Guy tries to cross the English Channel on a flying bicycle. (R) **3.55** Gillette World Sport. **4.25** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **4.50** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wissper. (R) **7.05** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Floogals. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.00** Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **2.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **3.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **4.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **5.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R)

6.00 All New Traffic Cops. An intoxicated driver heads the wrong way down the A1 near Leeds. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v West Indies.

8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Stewart and Iain head to Manchester, where a landlord is owed £8,000 in rent arrears and has already called for police back-up. Meanwhile, Brian and Del chase £3,000. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Funny Women: The Mel & Sue Story. Profile of entertainers Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, who have become famed for their irreverent, raised-eyebrow humour and cheeky innuendo. Both hailing from south London, Mel and Sue met at Cambridge and like so many others, honed their self-effacing double act on the stages of Edinburgh before breaking into TV fronting the Channel 4's daytime chat show Light Lunch. While at one point Mel came close to bankruptcy, the duo's luck was in when, in 2010, they were asked to host an unlikely sounding new show called The Great British Bake Off. Its enormous – though unexpected – success established them as top-of-the-game presenting talent.

10.30 Sue Perkins' Comedy Greats: The Entertainers.

12.20 Named and Shamed: Greatest Celebrity Scandals. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Delete.

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 BBC Proms 2017; Chopin Preludes **9.00** Gluck: Who Did She Think He Was? **10.00** Metal at the BBC **10.30** Muse @ Reading Festival 2017 **12.00** Queen: From Rags to Rhapsody **1.00** Jeff Lynne's ELO in Concert **2.00** Metal at the BBC **2.30** Gluck: Who Did She Think He Was? **3.30** Close

ITV2

12.00 Ninja Warrior UK **1.00** Mr Bean **2.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.40** Totally You've Been Framed! Gold **3.40 Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **6.00 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.55 Film:** Pacific Rim (2013) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00 Film:** Pacific Rim (2013) **10.30** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.25 Film: Carry On Girls (1973) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** Carry On Girls (1973) **1.15** Foyle's War **3.15** Royal Stories **3.50** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55 Film:** The Young Victoria (2009) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** The Young Victoria (2009) **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05 Film:** The English Patient (1996) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** The English Patient (1996) **2.55** Wycliffe **3.50** The Darling Buds of May **4.45** Rising Damp **5.10** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

5.45 British Touring Cars – Crashes and Smashes **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** World Series of Darts: Perth **12.00 Film:** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **1.00** FYI Daily **1.05 Film:** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00** Streetmate **2.05 Film:** Muppet Treasure Island (1996) **4.05** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Predators (2010) **11.05** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **12.10** Don't Tell the Bride **1.15** Body Fixers **2.20** Gogglebox **3.15** Rude Tube

Film4

11.00 Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **1.00** Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **3.25** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) **5.50** Avatar (2009) **9.00** The World's End (2013) **11.10** An American Werewolf in London (1981) **1.05** The Warriors (1979) **3.00** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Theory of Everything, ITV, 9pm
Biopic of Stephen Hawking, exploring the renowned astrophysicist's romance with future wife Jane during their time at university in the 1960s and his initial diagnosis with motor neurone disease, which doctors believed would lead to his death within two years. Undaunted by deteriorating health, he continued his groundbreaking research into the origins of the universe. Starring an Oscar-winning Eddie Redmayne, with Felicity Jones and David Thewlis. (2014)

TUESDAY
Bedtime Stories, BBC2, 2pm
A downtrodden handyman is forced to look after his niece and nephew. He soon wins them over with his knack for telling exciting stories, but to their surprise the tall tales start coming true – and as the children make their own suggestions, the results become even more incredible. Fantasy comedy, starring Adam Sandler, Keri Russell and Russell Brand. (2008)

The Theory of Everything, Monday, ITV, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
The Muppets, BBC2, 1.45pm
Three fans of the famous puppet variety show discover a powerful businessman is going to knock down the Muppet theatre and drill for oil on the site. They track down frontman Kermit the frog and persuade him to reunite his co-stars, so they can put on one last performance to save the venue. Comedy, starring Jason Segel. (2011)

THURSDAY
Badge of Betrayal, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman discovers her supposedly dead son is still alive, his demise having been faked by her ex-husband as part of an elaborate plot to destroy her life. However, finding the evidence to prove her story turns out to be a difficult challenge. Thriller, starring Julie Benz and Samantha Ferris. (2014)

FRIDAY
The Box, BBC1, 12.10am
A couple receive a box that will make them rich at the press of a button – but if they do so, someone will die. Sci-fi thriller, with Cameron Diaz and James Marsden. (2009)

Margaret reveals all about her life in the spotlight

American drama The Handmaid's Tale made its UK television debut on Channel 4 in May and became one of the biggest successes of the year, receiving 13 Emmy nominations before being renewed for a second season set to air in 2018.

Based on the 1985 book of the same name, the show imagines a future in which nuclear war has left a large percentage of the human population infertile and young women are forced to sleep with powerful men called Leaders and bear their children.

The young women – known as Handmaids – are assigned to the men and are essentially raped, in warped rituals involving the Leaders' wives, in a bid to fall pregnant and continue the human race.

The story is told through the eyes of a Handmaid called Offred (played by Elisabeth Moss) and switches between the present horror she is living in and the past, as the world starts to tumble into the chaos and disorder that has led to a totalitarian regime.

Perhaps one of the reasons the dark drama has been so successful is that many feel the subject matter is incredibly prescient given the Donald Trump administration, the feminism movement and the instability of the world.

Indeed, the book's author, Canadian Margaret Atwood has claimed that the 2016 US Presidential Election led to an increase in sales of The Handmaid's Tale even before the success of the aforementioned TV adaptation.

Atwood's star is now shining brighter than ever, but her success is not only drown to this one novel – for decades she has been universally acclaimed as Canada's greatest living writer.

She is a winner of the Arthur C Clarke Award and Prince of Asturias Award for Literature, and has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize five times, winning once for her historical novel The Blind Assassin.

In 2001, she was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame and is also a founder of the Writers' Trust of Canada, a non-profit literary organisation that seeks to encourage Canada's writing community.

Atwood is also an inventor, and has developed the LongPen that facilitates the remote robotic writing of documents.

While she is best known for her work as a novelist, she has also published 15 books of poetry, with many of her pieces inspired by myths and fairytales, which have been interests of hers from an early age.

And her upbringing is one of the key topics up for discussion when the writer and activist meets up with Alan Yentob in Toronto for tonight's Imagine.

Atwood explains how a childhood spent between the wilderness of northern Quebec and the city helped shape her vision of herself and the world, set alight her imagination and set her forth on a path to literary success.

Imagine – Margaret Atwood: You Have Been Warned!, Monday, BBC1, 10.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Jamie's Quick & Easy Food
Channel 4, 8pm
There's a common consensus that we are now more time-challenged than ever before. Gone are the days when we can invest time in making big meals for our family and friends – instead we want food that is quick and easy to make, as well as tasty and healthy. According to Jamie Oliver: 'Sometimes the simplest things are the best' and in this series he is using just five ingredients to create a selection of delicious stress-free recipes. On the menu tonight are sesame seared tuna, a messy meatball bun and chocolate rye cookies. Then, to round things off, Jamie prepares the comforting classic, chicken pot pie, and shares his quick-and-easy tips on how to make the perfect crispy crust.

TUESDAY
The Great British Bake Off
Channel 4, 8pm
It's back – but with a new recipe. Mary Berry, Sue Perkins and Mel Giedroyc famously decided not to follow the show when it moved to Channel 4, so now Sandi Toksvig and Noel Fielding are taking over the presenting duties, while Prue Leith steps in as judge. But there's still a tent, Paul Hollywood and, in this first episode, 12 amateur bakers who are keen to show they are the best in Britain. They are about to be faced with cake week, as they whip up a fruity signature bake, before tackling a children's tea party classic for the technical challenge and then creating a tricky illusion cake for the showstopper. But who will be more nervous – the contestants or Channel 4 as it waits to find out if the viewers have followed the Bake Off to its new home?

WEDNESDAY
Love Your Home and Garden
ITV, 8pm
The most recent run of Love Your Garden may have only finished last week, but Alan Titchmarsh is already back with a new series – and this time, he's not just transforming deserving people's backyards, he's also tackling their interiors as well. In the first episode, he travels to Banbury, Oxfordshire, to meet Donna and Lee, and their daughters Claudia, 12, and Leoni, 9. Four years ago, Donna suffered a near-fatal heart attack which left her with severely restricted sight, and her young daughters now act as her carers. Alan discovers that the family's cramped, cluttered rooms and dark interiors are making it difficult for Donna to move around the house without tripping, so he sets about creating a light-filled space, while also turning the garden from a place currently used for storing rubbish into somewhere the girls can play.

Educating Greater Manchester, Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm

THURSDAY
Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World
Channel 5, 9pm
They may be young, but the children featured in this documentary series are often experienced beyond their years, thanks to the freedoms and challenges that come with being part of one of the most marginalised communities in Britain. In the first episode of the series, we meet nine-year-old Irish traveller Margaret and her cousins, who are being evicted by bailiffs every seven days – and after they recently pulled their trailers into a school playground, resulting in 900 pupils being told to say home, emotions are running high. Meanwhile, nine-year-old Indianna is moving into a chalet on her family's site, which means she will have a bed to herself – and, for the first time, a bathroom inside her home.

Educating Greater Manchester
Channel 4, 9pm
New series. Life at Harrop Fold Secondary in Salford, Greater Manchester, a school at the heart of a changing community, following the teachers dealing with daily events. In this first episode, the pupils are comparing Trump's hairstyle with Hitler's, writing rude words on the back of a delivery van, and adjusting to an influx of students from a range of foreign countries. The school also has to respond to the shockwaves of the terrorist attack at the Ariana Grande concert, which eight of the pupils and one teacher attended.

FRIDAY
World Cup Live
ITV, 7.15pm
Malta v England (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the Group F qualifier from Ta' Qali National Stadium in Attard. Malta have lost every group match so far, but produced a spirited display in last October's reverse fixture at Wembley.

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BRAIN GYM

No.444

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

	24		26		16	23	1	9	5	8	22	4
3	2	7	25			26		10		6		20
	23		8	14	14	20	8	22		19	7	14
20	11	10	6					26		2		23
			19		18	23	10	17	9	20	26	6 T
16	8	14	20	26		1		19		6		10 I
8		8			21	10	14			20		26
17		26		14		7		15	8	26	6	20
9	10	6	17	19	20	1	26		6			
14		22		7					22	8	24	6
7	12	8		15	7	1	26	8	10		7	
6		13		10		10			23	3	2	5
26	20	10	21	8	15	2	20		13		4	

1	14
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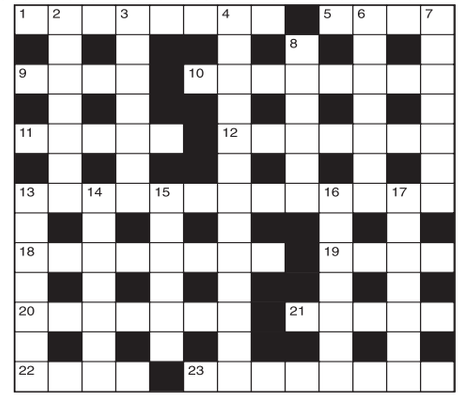
10 I	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 B	2 H	3 Q	4 J	5 V	6 S	7 T	8 C	9 K	10 L	11 A	12 Y	13 M
14 I	15 D	16 Z	17 F	18 P	19 G	20 O	21 E	22 R	23 N	24 X	25 W	26 U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. One instrument before another in the dance (8)
5. This deck looks just the same both ways (4)
9. Just one appearing in distant setting (4)
10. He seeks perfection for one transaction before it's ruined (8)
11. Coming from the chandler's is a long rope (5)
12. Framework on which climbers are trained (7)
13. Used by one with a view to entertainment (10,3)
18. Make a record showing the range of a voice (8)
19. Sounds like part of a gun emplacement (4)
20. Applaud an application to the insurance company, we hear (7)
21. Appears to observe the manuscript (5)
22. Waterproof clothes used by painters (4)
23. A man of scruples, as far as physics are concerned! (8)

Down

2. Like some stonework on a track (7)
3. Hurried back with the price to present an account (7)
4. Master pleaded for a ship (6,7)
6. Nothing strangely rising from these sources (7)
7. One with a complaint not complaining! (7)
8. What the drummer produces for a military spectacle? (6)
13. Road not affected by severe weather (7)
14. Record one visit cut short - that's reasonable (7)
15. Long-range spectacles (6)
16. An accumulation reposing in the bird sanctuary? (4-3)
17. Makes the situation grave (7)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Carry on (8)
5. Great potentate (4)
9. Stupefy (4)
10. Acute poverty (8)
11. Droll (5)
12. Scintillate (7)
13. Declaration (13)
18. Curb (8)
19. Wise (4)
20. Sedition (7)
21. Bolt (5)
22. Appear (4)
23. Estrange (8)

Down

2. Open-air (7)
3. Stress (7)
4. Inadvertent (13)
6. Spot (7)
7. Esteem (7)
8. Hit (6)
13. Corsairs (7)
14. Indecent (7)
15. Attack (6)
16. Errand (7)
17. Overlook (7)

Sudoku

1					3			8
		3				9		
	9	4	6	2	1	5		
	1		3		2		6	
		6				3		
	3		8		5		7	9
		1	5	7	4	2		
		9				7		
5				3				1

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	9	2	3	8	4	5	6	7
4	5	7	2	9	6	1	8	3
3	6	8	7	1	5	2	9	4
9	3	6	8	7	2	4	1	5
8	1	5	4	6	3	9	7	2
2	7	4	9	5	1	6	3	8
6	4	1	5	3	7	8	2	9
5	8	3	6	2	9	7	4	1
7	2	9	1	4	8	3	5	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Lilies; 4 Ransom; 9 Gives one's word; 10 Collect; 11 Natal; 12 Skate; 14 Hewed; 18 Okapi; 19 Rosette; 21 Knock-out punch; 22 Nudity; 23 Wagers. Down: 1 Legacy; 2 Live like a lord; 3 Ensue; 5 Absence; 6 Short sentence; 7 Models; 8 Knots; 13 Trinket; 15 Look in; 16 Trout; 17 Meshes; 20 Sepia.
QUICK - Across: 1 Hidden; 4 Intend; 9 Off one's own bat; 10 America; 11 Eerie; 12 Leapt; 14 Delay; 18 Attic; 19 Oversee; 21 Head over heels; 22 Sheath; 23 Crater. Down: 1 Hookah; 2 Differentiate; 3 Ennui; 5 Nowhere; 6 Embarrassment; 7 Dither; 8 Essay; 13 Pick out; 15 Pathos; 16 Bower; 17 Geyser; 20 Ether.

Quiz

1. How is the convolvulus genus of plants also known?
2. Which flower is depicted on the Royal British Legion's logo?
3. On which part of the body is a lobotomy performed?
4. In Greek mythology, from whose blood is the winged horse Pegasus supposed to have sprung?
5. Which major London store removed the royal warrants from its shopfront in December 2000?
6. What was the capital of the Confederacy in the US Civil War?
7. Who was the first Hollywood legend to feature on a US postage stamp?
8. In which year was the GLC abolished?
9. What is the medical specialty concerned with the study of disease processes called?
10. Which late US actor's real surname was Matuschanskayasky?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 A fragrant shrub; 2 Parakeet; 3 Malcolm McDowell; 4 Outer Hebrides; 5 Daniele Gatti; 6 Richard III; 7 Xylophone; 8 Friends of the Earth; 9 Opal; 10 Dave Bassett.

Niner: HERALDING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

959156 gives a participant,
2924586 gives a casual participant,
6536874 gives a second casual participant.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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• Juniors at Museums programme
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• Craft studios • Red Cone Coffee House
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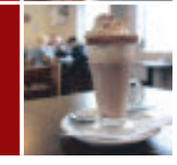

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Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Enjoy living it up like the A-listers

IT'S not uncommon to go to Los Angeles and bump into an A-lister or four. I once saw Johnny Depp about 15 minutes after I'd ogled his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

But, when celebrities need a quick escape from the glitz and paparazzi, they hop on a plane to Los Cabos. The Mexican hideaway, on the sun-baked tip of the southern Baja California peninsula, is just two and a half hours from LAX airport. Probably less if you're zooming over via private jet, like the Kardashian clan.

Los Cabos has two major towns connected by 'the Corridor' – San Jose del Cabo (more chilled) and Cabo San Lucas (more lively) – and a whole load of palm-fringed beach in between. Here are seven reasons why celebrities like Jennifer Aniston, George Clooney and Cameron Diaz are such big fans of the destination . . .

1. The Thunderbirds-style villas

Cindy Crawford and George Clooney built side-by-side 'Casamigos' Cabo villas, Sylvester Stallone spends his winters in Pedregal, and Jennifer Aniston practically has her own hideaway on a luxury hotel complex. Mainly only visible by boat and nestled in cliffs – just like Thunderbirds' Tracy HQ.

2. The whale watching

You may not even need to go on a boat trip to see the spectacle of grey, blue and humpback whales. From the end of November to March, chances are you'll be lucky enough to spot them from your sunlounger.

3. The super spas

Spas are anything but low-key in Los Cabos. Jennifer Lopez, Jessica Alba and Cameron Diaz are all said to be regulars at Las Ventanas al Paraiso's spa, which resembles a colonial Mexican hacienda.

4. The Mexican cuisine

Nothing quite hits the spot like authentic creamy guac, tortillas and tacos.

Sunloungers and sea views at Grand Velas

A surfer on Los Cabos beach at sunset

5. The statement art

Where do the likes of George Clooney and Leonardo DiCaprio go to get one-off works of art? They've been known to browse San Jose Del Cabo's famous gallery district (artcabo.com); a downtown hive of creativity featuring original paintings, photography, sculpture, pottery and glasswork.

6. The Sea of Cortez cruises

You're unlikely to see celebs on guided excursions – although Cabo Adventures do offer an excellent Luxury Day Sailing trip for $109 per person for four hours (cabo-adventures.com). A-listers are more likely to charter their squad a super-luxe yacht.

7. The celebrity standards

When your private butler shows you to your room and asks if you'd like the contents of your suitcase unpacked while you hit the beach, you know the resort's got celebrity appeal. That the level of service at the new super-luxe Grand Velas Los Cabos. The 304-room resort opened in late 2016 and Hollywood actress Juliette Lewis was one of the first to check-in. From sunloungers surrounding the triple-tier infinity pool, to serene beach cabanas there are countless places to kick back and feast on insanely tasty tostadas.

How to get there . . .

Rooms from US $548 (£434 approx) per person per night, all-inclusive. Visit loscabos.grandvelas.com

Fly from London Heathrow to Cabo San Lucas SJD via Mexico City with Aeromexico, from £499.47 in November 2017. Visit aeromexico.com

For details on Los Cabos in Mexico, visit visitloscabos.travel

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*Please note: Not all pick up points are available on all breaks.

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CHRISTMAS AT BLENHEIM
& BATH'S FESTIVE MARKET

Quote Code: DLX290

(C) Blenheim Palace

Departing Saturday 9 December 2017

Blenheim at Christmas is a marvel not to miss, and the after-dark landscape lights are an other-worldly delight. Join us for all this, plus a day at Bath's Christmas Market along with return travel, hotel and English breakfast.

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View product online at
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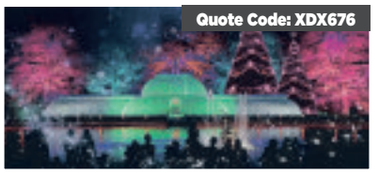
CHRISTMAS AT KEW GARDENS
AND LONDON

Quote Code: XDX676



Saturday departures, 2 & 16 December 2017

See Kew's winter landscape at night as an enchanting Illuminated Trail of music and lights leads you round the Gardens as you have never seen them before...

Price Includes...
- ✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel within 30 miles of central London with full English breakfast
- ✔ Timed admission ticket to the Kew Gardens Illuminated Trail
- ✔ Free shopping time in central London on Sunday

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only £129.95pp

View product online at
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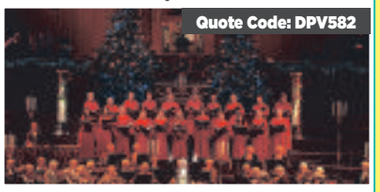
Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
at the Royal Albert Hall

Quote Code: DPV582



Departing Saturday 16 December 2017

Take time out in the final countdown to Christmas to enjoy this candle-lit concert of popular carols, classical pieces and readings, all exquisitely staged in 18th-century costume. This great-value break also includes free time for last-minute gift shopping..

Price Includes...
- ✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel within 30 miles of central London with full English breakfast
- ✔ A Circle ticket (face value £26.47) for the Saturday evening performance of Carols by Candlelight (upgrades available)
- ✔ Return coach transfer to the Royal Albert Hall
- ✔ Free time in London on Sunday

2 days, by coach
only £149.95pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/DPV582

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

Quote Code: MYM522

LONDON'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Saturday departures, 18 November & 16 December 2017

London's Hyde Park transforms this November and December into a dazzling spectacle of sparkle, with 200+ Christmas Market stalls, ice rink, ice kingdom, circuses, Big Wheel, and even a cocktail bar made of ice.

Price Includes...
- ✔ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with full English breakfast
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- ✔ Free time in London on Sunday

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View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/MYM522

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Highly appealing home has been well looked after

ROWLEY REGIS £119,950

This three-bedroomed terraced house in Blue Stone Walk, Rowley Regis, is an extremely well looked after and decorated home.

It is now for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at offers in excess of £119,950.

Blue Stone Walk, located in the popular residential area of Rowley Regis, has lovely surroundings, with public gardens and the property is within walking distance local shops and restaurants.

A path leads to the porch. The entrance hall is decorated neutrally with laminated flooring and a feature light display.

The first room on the right is the main reception area. This room is of fantastic living space and is finished in an elegant colour scheme with carpeting and a feature fireplace. Double doors lead out to the decking zone.

The kitchen is in a modern style and includes fitted appliances and storage units. It has black tiled flooring with beech coloured elements.

The first floor to this home has two double and one single bedrooms. The master bedroom is of very good space with feature wallpaper and laminate flooring.

The second bedroom is also of great space with neutral style décor and front views of the public gardens.

The third and final bedroom is smallest of size but equally as useful as a nursery room or office space.

The family bathroom has a three piece including a bath tub, WC and sink basin.

The garden is spread over two tiers with a decking zone alongside a lawn area.

Rear access from the garden is available for a second entrance into the property.

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: loveyourpostcode.com
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KEY FEATURES

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- Fantastic living space
- Garden over two tiers
- Views of the public gardens

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SDL AUCTIONS — BIGWOOD

6TH SEPTEMBER
Aston Villa Football Ground
Starting at 10:30am

AUCTION

150 LOTS To include properties on behalf of:
Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Administrators

Birmingham City Council · Sandwell · GVA An ARLEGHA company

45 Drews Holloway, Halesowen
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £30,000+ (plus fees)

18 Chaucer Road, Walsall
3 Bed Detached House
Guide: £60,000+ (plus fees)

'Rylands', Smithy Lane, Pensnett
2 Bed Detached Bungalow
Guide: £110,000-£115,000 (plus fees)

6 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)

26 Bromford Close, Handsworth
First Floor Studio Apartment
Guide: £15,000-£19,000 (plus fees)

13 Peach Avenue, Wednesbury
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £45,000+ (plus fees)

71 Castle Road, Tipton
3 Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

31 Marsh Lane, West Bromwich
2 Bed End Terraced House
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

8 Lilac Grove, Walsall
2 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £65,000+ (plus fees)

40 Hayes Street, West Bromwich
2 Bed Mid Terraced House
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

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NEW

OLDBURY
VICTORIA ROAD £235,000
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NEW

OLDBURY
THEODORE CLOSE £164,950
3 · 2 · 1
Traditional semi-detached house with NO UPWARD CHAIN in need of general updating with double glazing, gardens to front, rear and side. Detached garage in rear garden. EPC Rating E

NEW

OLDBURY
LANDSWOOD ROAD £149,950
3 · 1 · 1
The opportunity to acquire a semi-detached house in a convenient and popular location. Double glazing (where specified) and gas central heating. Off road parking and private rear garden. EPC Rating E

NEW

OLDBURY
FISHER ROAD £105,000
3 · 2 · 1
The opportunity to acquire a terraced property in need of improvement and being situated in a popular location approximately 1 mile from Oldbury Town Centre with double glazing and private garden at rear. EPC Rating G

OLDBURY
HARBORNE ROAD £365,000
4 · 2 · 1
Extended traditional semi-detached house warranting full internal inspection with double glazing, gas central heating, built-in appliances in kitchen, built-in bedroom furniture in two bedrooms and private established rear garden. EPC Rating E

TIPTON
EAGLE LANE £279,950
4 · 2 · 1
Extended modern detached house in popular and convenient location with a delightful Summer House in the rear garden. Ensuite shower to main bedroom, private rear garden, off-road parking, EARLY INSPECTION TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. EPC Rating C

TIVIDALE
LOWER CITY ROAD £229,950
3 · 2 · 1
A detached property situated in one of the areas most sought after locations with potential to extend to side and rear subject to Planning and Building Consent. In need of some improvement. EPC Rating E

TIVIDALE
NEW BIRMINGHAM ROAD £220,000
2 · 2 · 1
A detached bungalow in need of general updating and decoration but offering good sized accommodation. Central heating, double glazing, established gardens to front and rear, double garage and off-road parking. EPC Rating F

WEST BROMWICH
BEXLEY GROVE £174,950
3 · 2 · 1
Traditional semi-detached house in need of general updating and with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Potential for extension subject to planning. Double glazing, central heating (where specified) conservatory, off-road parking and rear garden. EPC Rating E

REDUCED

OLDBURY
POUND ROAD £164,950
3 · 1 · 1
End of terrace house offering good sized accommodation in corner location with potential for extension, subject to planning. Gas central heating, double glazing, garden to front, low maintenance private rear garden and block paved driveway. EPC Rating D

OLDBURY
EAST AVENUE £119,950
3 · 1 · 1
Terraced house in need of general updating offering ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity with the benefit of central heating, double glazing, garden to front, parking at rear and low maintenance garden. EPC Rating D

OLDBURY
BIRMINGHAM STREET £250,000
A well established Newsagents Business for sale including Freehold Property comprising retail shop area, cellar, staircase to first floor with kitchen, W.C. and two rooms with further accommodation which has two rooms, vehicle access to rear of property. EPC Rating F

TO LET

WEST BROMWICH
SIDDONS WAY £625 pcm
2 · 1 · 1
Modern end of terrace house in convenient location, central heating, double glazing, driveway and rear garden with storage shed. DEPOSIT £650. EPC Rating C

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SDL AUCTIONS
BIGWOOD

6TH SEPTEMBER

Aston Villa Football Ground
Starting at 10.30am

AUCTION

View: 25/8 @ 14.45; 30/8 @ 10.00; 1/9 @ 14.45; 2/9 @ 16.30

14 Kiniths Way, West Bromwich

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

Accommodation: Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room and WC on the ground floor with landing, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC on the first floor.
Outside: Gardens, rear garage and driveway parking.

Guide: £59,000-£64,000 (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 10.45; 26/8 @ 12.15; 30/8 @ 14.00; 1/9 @ 10.45

16 Overdale Road, Quinton

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a driveway and foregarden.

Accommodation: Porch, hall, through reception room, kitchen, side verandah and bathroom/WC on the ground floor with landing and three bedrooms and en-suite shower room/WC on the first floor.
Outside: Gardens and driveway parking.

Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 14.30; 30/8 @ 10.45; 1/9 @ 14.30; 2/9 @ 14.15

133 Ashley Street, Bilston

A 3 bedroom newly built end terraced property, standing back from the road behind a paved foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

Accommodation: Storm porch, two reception rooms, kitchen, lobby and bathroom/WC on the ground floor with landing and three bedrooms on the first floor.
Outside: Paved garden.

Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 11.30; 26/8 @ 11.30; 30/8 @ 13.15; 1/9 @ 11.30

81 Northfield Road, Harborne

A 2 bedroom mid terraced house, standing back from the road behind a foregarden. The property is in need of modernisation.

Accommodation: Porch, two reception rooms, understairs cupboard and kitchen on the ground floor with landing, two bedrooms and bathroom/WC on the first floor.
Outside: Gardens.

Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 12.15; 30/8 @ 13.15; 1/9 @ 12.15; 2/9 @ 12.00

2 Willcock Road, Wolverhampton

A 4 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

Accommodation: Hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, pantry and guest cloakroom/WC on the ground floor, landing, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC on the first floor and further bedroom on the second floor.
Outside: Gardens.

Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 12.30; 26/8 @ 9.45; 30/8 @ 12.15; 1/9 @ 12.30

71 Castle Road, Tipton

A 3 bedroom detached dormer bungalow, standing back from the road behind a driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and partial double glazing.

Accommodation: Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen and bathroom/WC on the ground floor with landing and three bedrooms on the first floor.
Outside: Gardens and driveway parking.

Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

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SDL AUCTIONS
BIGWOOD

6TH SEPTEMBER

Aston Villa Football Ground
Starting at 10.30am

AUCTION

View: 25/8 @ 13.00; 30/8 @ 12.30; 1/9 @ 13.00; 2/9 @ 12.45

35 Norbury Crescent, Wolverhampton
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing
Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 15.30; 30/8 @ 10.00; 1/9 @ 15.30; 2/9 @ 15.00

'Normean', 4 Wednesbury Oak Rd, Tipton
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 14.00; 30/8 @ 10.45, 1/9 @ 14.00, 2/9 @ 15.45

6 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich
3 bed semi detached house with majority double glazing, in need of improvements
Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 13.45; 30/8 @ 11.45; 1/9 @ 13.45; 2/9 @ 13.30

90 George Street, Wolverhampton
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing
Guide: £30,000-£44,000 (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 10.00; 30/8 @ 15.30; 1/9 @ 10.00; 2/9 @ 9.45

47 East Croft Road, Warstones, Penn
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and partial double glazing
Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 14.30; 30/8 @ 10.45; 1/9 @ 14.30; 2/9 @ 14.15

131 Ashley Street, Bilston
3 bed newly built mid terraced house with central heating and majority double glazing
Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 13.15; 26/8 @ 10.30; 30/8 @11.30; 1/9 @ 13.15

12 St Peters Close, Tipton
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing
Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 11.30; 30/8 @ 14.00; 1/9 @ 11.30; 2/9 @ 11.15

224 Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton
2 bed end terraced house with central heating, in need of modernisation
Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)

View: 25/8 @ 10.45; 30/8 @ 14.45; 1/9 @ 10.45; 2/9 @ 10.30

76 Norfolk Road, Wolverhampton
3 bed mid terraced house with central heating and majority double glazing
Guide: £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)

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Index

1 Family
2 Leisure Time
3 Home & Services
4 Pets & Animals
5 Business & Farming
6 Property
7 Jobs
8 Motoring
9 Local Information
10 Personals

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1 Family

elderly & disabled

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2 Leisure Time

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music shop

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holidays

travel abroad

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3 Home & Services

furniture

katharine house hospice
Reg charity number: 1011712
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

FURNITURE NOT SOLD? Donate it to Katharine House Hospice. We collect for free. Telephone Cannock 01543 466885, Stafford 01785 247630, House clearance service 01785 760715.

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Cookers, Fires, Autos, Tumble dryers, Built in ovens, Hobs, Fridge freezers, lots more at low prices.
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Past & Present
24 - 26 church street, Bilston (opposite town hall).

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in your garden

6x5 Lap Panels
£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes
WS3 2BQ
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

KARCHER PRESSURE washer, completely unused, £40 ono. 07503 194132.

items wanted

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Cash paid £300+ per ounce for 9 car- at scrap gold. Any amount collected!
Sovereigns £200+ each, Watches, Coins, Medals & more
Highly Recommended!
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items for sale

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UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
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Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

Frank Bosworth
Furniture
IN LIQUIDATION
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All Fashion Beds - Sleigh Beds, Metal, Iron and Ottoman Beds
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pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS
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Windows problems etc.
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Long established.
Laptops available.
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BATHROOM DESIGN All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms: 07850 382548.

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

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APPROVED CONTRACTOR
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FREE QUOTES
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JUST DAMP PROOFING
All Areas Covered
Sovereign approved damp proofer
Up to 30 years
Backed Guarantee available
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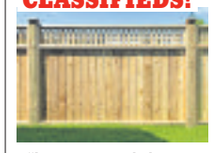

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• Landlord Certificates
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Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
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It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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handyman services

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Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
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Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
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plumbing & heating

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No job too small or large.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

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PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

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www.stoppsandpage.co.uk

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12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

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KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

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AAA SKIP HIRE All sizes available, competitive prices. Call: 01922 711411(option 2) or 07592 940556.

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t.v. / home entertainment

service

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4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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including pumps, filter, UV light, everything to start you up keeping fish, cost over £1,500, ex Hollybush equipment,
Bargain £300.
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Free Quotes Call:
07855 405022 or
01543 876145

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

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Studios
from £90pw*
Rooms
from £65pw*
*Includes Most Bills
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J9accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

properties wanted

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You agree the price, we buy the house...
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overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

building & construction

* QUALIFIED SCAFFOLDERS
* HGV CLASS 2 DRIVER / LABOURER
* NETTER / RIGGERS
All must have valid CSCS card & have a UTR Number.
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Tel 0121 500 6336 or 07973 177743.

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DENTAL NURSES AND RECEPTIONISTS required, GDC registered, Flexible hours F/T, P/T available - 7 days per week (8am - 11pm) Wage 12K - 20 k - negotiable, overtime & bonuses Immediate starts Apprenticeships available email CV info@scottarmsdentalpractice.com

drivers

CLASS 2 HGV DRIVER required for a scrap metal company based in Oldbury. Experience with skip lorries preferable, local work. No out of hours driving. Telephone 0121 544 0500.

COACH DRIVERS - full / part time. Must hold full PCV & CPC licence. Be flexible with hours. Tipton / Oldbury area. Call 07831 893640

full time - general

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Full time or part time
An interesting and varied role with primary duties including spring making, using Bennett Mahler coiling machines and tool setting on a variety of machines and hand presses. Additional opportunities exist within the organisation for the right candidate, including tool making and duties in other production departments.
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CNC Machinist/ Programmer
torus group
West Bromwich
Salary: Negotiable dependent on experience.
TORUS MACHINING LIMITED member of the **TORUS** Group of companies are currently recruiting due to ongoing expansion.
Responsibilities
- Produce CNC Programs and high quality machined components
- Knowledge of CAD/CAM would be an advantage, training possibilities
- Plan work load / capacity
- Served a recognised apprenticeship or similar equivalent
- Ability to read and understand technical drawings and quality procedures
- Engineering skills, Milling, Turning, Grinding, Fitting etc
- A working knowledge of Wire and/or Spark Eroding would be advantageous

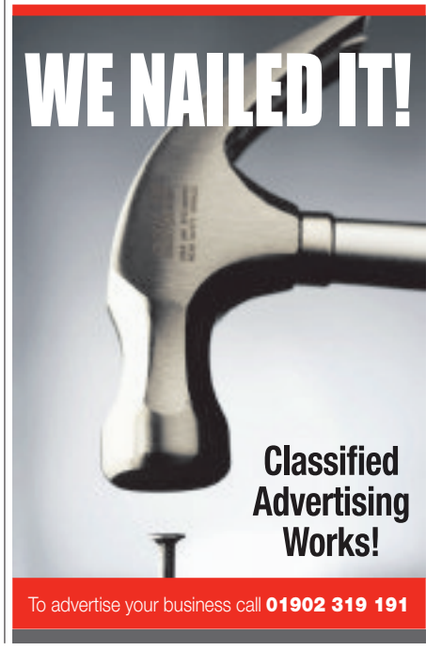
To apply for this position please email julie.morris@torus-group.com
Closing date for applications: Friday 30th September 2017

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

BMW 325 TOURING, 2002, 165,000 miles, sunroof, electric windows, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, central locking, £1,250. 01384 392590.

ECONOMICAL
CITROEN BELLINGO MULTI SPACE 1.4 LPG
06 reg.,
12 months MoT,
metallic red, tinted windows, tow bar, 83,000 miles,
new shockers and windscreen,
good condition.
Cheap to run.
£1,450 ono
07988 273136.



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2003, diesel, very good condition, full MoT.

Call Ray for more information.

£775 ono

01922 479743 or 07866 823209.

KIA CERATO LX

2004, 60,000 miles from new, two owners, long MoT, very good condition,

£850 ono.

07742 904992.

LOW MILEAGE

RENAULT CLIO PRIVILEGE
5-dr hatch, 06 reg,
1.4, petrol,
44,000 miles.
Bargain £999 ono.
07866 523369.

GOOD RUNNER

VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE
51 reg.
1600 cc.
Silver.
84,000 miles.
Good condition.
MoT March 18.
£875 ono.
07864 842076.

cars over £1500

IMMACULATE

CITROEN C4

1.6 5dr Hatchback

2010, full Citroen dealership service history, long MoT, low mileage, red.

£2,500.

07716 376510.

HONDA CIVIC TYPE S. 1.8 VITEC.
58 reg.
Two owners.
79,000 miles only.
5 door.
Black.
All electrics.
Alloys.
Short MoT.
Bargain £1,950.
07438 451168.

LOW MILEAGE

HONDA CIVIC
2013, petrol,
MoT March 2018,
26,840 miles,
£6,600.
01922 698185.

MUST BE SEEN

MINI COOPER 1600
54 reg.
77,000 miles, MoT January 2018, service history, yellow with black roof.
Excellent condition.
Drives superb.
£2,995.
Telephone 07809 286268.

BARGAIN

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6

2009, metallic blue, 5 door, low mileage, 11 months MoT, good condition.

Genuine callers only.

£2,150 ono.

Telephone 01785 612095 or 07825 578770.

motorbikes

IMMACULATE

APRILIA RSV MILLE
2003, 1000cc
10,000 miles, 12 months MoT, performance exhaust, ollins damper and new pirelli tyres with adjustable rear shock.
Immaculate conditon with stands, cover and lock.
Complete with private reg and free accessories.
£2,500.
07812 160287.

MUST BE SEEN

HONDA C70

1980, 3,000 miles,

7 months MoT

Very good condition

£1,000 ono

07836 568903.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

WANTED WANTED WANTED
Peugeot Partner, Bellingo or similar, must be automatic. Cash waiting ring 01785 664147.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Planning
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/17/60896	Mr K. Jivraj Brightwell Properties Ltd	Land At The Junction Of Peartree Lane Petford Street Cradley Heath	Outline application (access, layout and scale) for proposed 31 flats.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/17/60914	Mr Abdul Rahman Faqiri Afghan Society in the West Midlands	The Abrahamic Foundation Unit 5 Ionic Buildings Grove Street Smethwick B66 2QR	Proposed removal of condition 2 of planning permission DC/15/58579 to allow permanent use of first and second floors as prayer hall and community centre with associated ground floor car park, (revised application – DC/17/60469).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR JAN BRITTON, Chief Executive

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (John's Lane, Tipton) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2017, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along John's Lane, Tipton between junction with A461 and the junction with Bevan Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 31/08/17 effective from 29/08/17. Traffic will be diverted via Bevan Road, Denbigh Road, A461 and vice-versa. Purpose – new gas connection by Balfour Beatty for Cadent Gas Ltd.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Ridding Lane, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2017, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Ridding Lane, Wednesbury between junctions with Mounts Road and Corporation Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 18/09/17 effective from 18/09/17. Traffic will be diverted via Mounts Road, Bridge Street, Lower High Street, Ridding Lane and vice-versa. Purpose – bridge works by J Murphy & Sons for Network Rail.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Lombard Street West, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2017, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Lombard Street West, West Bromwich between High Street and the bounday of 4 Lombard Street West. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 09/04/18 effective from 25/09/17. Traffic will be diverted via High Street, Victoria Street and Edward Street. Purpose – demolition of buildings for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

10 Personals

personal

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You just need the right ATTITUDE.

ATTRACTIVE Lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

MALE 50, 6FT MIXED RACE.
WLTM 55-65 year old female for companionship and love.
No ties.
Kidderminster and surrounding areas.
Please reply
Box Number P20913 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE 60
Looks younger, kind and considerate looking for lady any age for relationship.
I've many interests.
Must be non smoker.
Cannock and surrounding areas.
Box Number P20918 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE M5 MOTORWAY,
(FRANKLEY SERVICES, WORCESTERSHIRE)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M5 Motorway, in the County of Worcestershire, to allow the installation of a new length of safety barrier inspections and routine maintenance works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading from the southbound carriageway of the M5, to Frankley Motorway Service Area.

The work will be carried out over night between 21:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 4 September 2017 and continue for five nights. The Order will come into force on Monday 28 August 2017.

Vehicles being used by the emergency services and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the closure.

For more information please contact Esosa Ikolo, on 0300 470 3105.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

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Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text:
Text.. **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Been left a message? ***Pickup*** your replies on:
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calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

CARING, young at heart lady seeks tall caring gent with GSOH for friendship, outings and car drives. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042252**

SASKA, kind hearted Asian lady, single and still living with family so seeking very discreet relationship with strong minded man. I am 29yrs but like mature experienced men. **Text Only. Box: 4047094**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No; 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

MIA, attractive married lady from Birmingham are, looking to meet a discreet gent, any age, any area for fun times. I am 49yrs old but look younger. **Text Only. Box: 4079581**

PAM, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427753**

TINA, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man, GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. **Text Only. Box: 4145368**

SUE, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549**

JANE, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. **Text Only. Box: 4099268**

TERESA, friendly lady with GSOH, curvy build and attractive looks, 50 something, seeking romantic male 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428383**

TRACY, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much much younger chap for carefree times. **Text Only. Box: 4006039**

ARE you a gent with GSOH 60-70 and looking for some fun then call me, Leah, I'm 57yrs, slim, attractive and looking for fun. ACA. Or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428381**

HELLO, my name is Pia, I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her. **Text Only. Box: 4177099**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

JANE, 52yrs genuine blue eyed blonde lady WLTM romantic gent for potential relationship. ACA/Text answered so please reply. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428379**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

LINDA, 48yrs, young looking blonde lady, slim and attractive. Hoping to meet new men friends, call and let's see what happens. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428377**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

MARGARET, attractive blonde widow, living alone and hoping to find a nice gentleman soulmate. I have lots to offer so please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428375**

JOY, mid 50s independent lady, brunette, loves dining out, seeking gent of any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428373**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

ATTRACTIVE widow, loves life, 60s music, walking and fun. Hoping to meet a similar minded gent 60-80 for life's adventures. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428371**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

NICOLA, 37yrs mixed race beauty, just moved to the area from London so a bit lonely. Looks unimportant must have GSOH and be kind. ACA/text answered **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428369**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

WANTED, submissive gent by attractive lady 51yrs, please call if you want to know more. Ata **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428367**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

ATTRACTIVE lady, young at heart, would like to meet genuine caring guy for coffee and chats, plus days out. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6035338**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No; 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

ATTRACTIVE lady 61yrs young. Looking for friendship, maybe more with genuine gent. I'm feminine and curvy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428157**

SASKA, kind hearted Asian lady, single and still living with family so seeking very discreet relationship with strong minded man. I am 29yrs but like mature experienced men. **Text Only. Box: 4047094**

CHRISTINE, 60 something lady, blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent and kind. Call me if you are interested in meeting up. Looks unimportant. Must be N/S. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428155**

MIA, attractive married lady from Birmingham are, looking to meet a discreet gent, any age, any area for fun times. I am 49yrs old but look younger. **Text Only. Box: 4079581**

I am a 57-year-old lady, 5ft 8ins tall, short brownish hair. I am of medium build, outgoing, caring and WLTM similar male. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6024848**

TAMARA, 44yrs, beautiful Indian lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+ **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428147**

TINA, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man, GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. **Text Only. Box: 4145368**

ATTRACTIVE widow, attractive, blonde, GSOH, solvent with good figure. All that's missing is a nice man 60+. Call me if you are interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428139**

JANE, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. **Text Only. Box: 4099268**

MAY, 64, widow, GSOH, lonely and WLTM a nice, kind gentleman of similar age, hopefully someone who likes walking and animals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428217**

TRACY, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much much younger chap for carefree times. **Text Only. Box: 4006039**

SLIM attractive lady, 59yrs, feminine, kind, loves life. Call me or text me your number and let's meet up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428143**

LADY, 63, WLTM a gentleman of similar age, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428029**

HELLO, my name is Pia, I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her. **Text Only. Box: 4177099**

SHEILA, 64, widow, GSOH, likes to get out and about, walking, animals, reading, classical music, WLTM a male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428181**

Single Men

VERY fit, elderly widower, loves walking, bird watching, exploring Europe, WLTM a lady for companionship. Please reply via box number. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428171**

COLIN 72, from Burntwood, looking for loving lady for days out, holidays and company. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 4880436**

MALE, 20s, seeks NSA fun with female. I love a laugh, age isn't important. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042304**

MALE 46, genuine and honest and very caring looking for a LTR with lady. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 5422168**

MALE 20s, chilled out and happy in life looking for woman to share life with. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6034839**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MIKE, male, 61, seeks black or Asian lady, any age for adult fun, maybe more. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6010228**

MALE, late 60s, N/S, retired, 5ft9, slim build, enjoys holidays abroad, weekends away, travel, meals out. Looking to meet female, N/S, who enjoys similar interests, to share good times together, for friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428219**

JEFF, 60s, tall, fit, young outlook, N/S, car owner, seeks similar lady for friendship, outings out etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428175**

MALE, a young 60 would love to meet a cuddly lady. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6016333**

SINGLE dad, tall, blonde hair, good looking, keeps fit, loves the cinema, meals out, looking for a single lady for date nights. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428163**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, genuine lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

HI my name is Jay. I'm looking for a lady to have a lovely evening with, maybe once or twice a week. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427927**

JACK 23, single, tall, young looking guy, kind and respectful, seeking female age/looks not important for mutual NSA fun. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6026038**

MALE 64, fit, non-smoker, looking for NSA fun with lady, any age. I am kind and caring but miss the touch of a woman. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6025714**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 56, 6ft, WLTM an attractive female, any age, for discreet fun and intimate times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428109**

MALE, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

FUN loving Irish man, seeks relationship, for fun times and going out. Please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428077**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

I am Kev, 57, looking for a lady in my life. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6023170**

SHAUN, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497**

GENTLEMAN, kind, considerate, tactile, thoughtful and caring, hobbies include growing Fuschia and vintage tractors, looking for a country girl, someone with no plans of grandeur. Truth and trust number 1 as I trust you so you tell me the truth, and vice versa. Looking for someone to hold and love forever. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427791**

SINGLE male, 43, looking for female friends for txt, phone chats, maybe more. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6017886**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE 40s, 5ft 8ins, brown hair, seeks lovely honest girl for fun and friendship please. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6018513**

MARK 40s, from the Birmingham area WLTM a female, any nationality, for LTR. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6016342**

MALE, 50, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

Customer support
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Repeat victory for the Volvo V40 in safe used car awards

The Driver Support Pack includes a range of advanced safety aids

By James Parker

The Volvo V40 with optional Driver Support Package has been named 'Safe Used Car' by Co-op Insurance for the second year in a row, as the award is relaunched for 2017.

Co-op Insurance created the inaugural Co-op Safe Used Car Award last year in partnership with vehicle safety experts Thatcham Research to demonstrate its commitment to campaigning for safer communities throughout the UK. The Volvo V40 with Driver Support Pack was the first car to be presented with the accolade, based on analysis of used family cars, all of which must have a five-star Euro NCAP safety score, CO2 emissions of 120g/km or lower and be freely available on the used car market for £15,000 or less.

Every V40 comes with Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) as standard, while the Driver Support Pack includes a range of advanced safety aids, including pedestrian and cyclist detection, adaptive cruise control and systems that warn you if you inadvertently start to leave your lane or if there's a vehicle in your blind spot.

Autonomous Emergency Braking is standard

While the Volvo V40 with the Driver Support Pack remains a non-mover as the overall winner, the V40 without this suite of safety features is also in the top 10 list of safest used cars.

Thanks to an impressive number of standard safety features, including the world-first application of a pedestrian airbag, every V40 offers crucial protection for its occupants – as well as those outside – in an accident. However, where the car really comes into its own is with its collision-avoidance technology.

The V40 became the safest car ever tested by Euro NCAP when it was tested in 2012, with superb scores across the board – including an unprecedented 100% for safety assist.

Since then, the Volvo S90 and V90 have surpassed the best overall score of any model tested in 2016, making Euro NCAP's top-three best-ever-performing cars all Volvos.

James Hillon, director of product at Co-op Insurance, said: "We're pleased to announce that the Volvo V40 has topped the list as Co-op's Safest Used Family Car for a second year running, making it a safe choice for families looking to buy a second-hand vehicle.

"Volvo scored the highest in a series of track tests conducted by Thatcham Research and once again produced unprecedented results."

Bruce Greenwood, used car programme manager for Volvo Car UK, said: "To be presented with the Co-op Safe Used Car Award for the second year running – and to also have two cars in the top 10 – by one of the UK's largest insurance providers as well as experts in vehicle safety is a real testament to the Volvo V40.

"Even as standard, the V40 has class-leading safety features that focus on protecting the driver, passengers and pedestrians.

"Customers are recognising the benefits that come with buying a V40 through the Volvo Selekt Approved Used Car programme, because the scheme includes competitive prices, comprehensive warranty cover, roadside assistance and a full history check. Combined with the V40's outstanding safety and striking design, this has made the car an immensely popular second-hand buy since its introduction in 2012."

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, August 24, 2017

BMW 5 still a premium benchmark

By Darren Cassey

When the BMW 5 Series gets refreshed it's a pretty big deal. It has long been considered the benchmark for premium saloons and estates, but with new rivals such as Volvo trying to worm their way into a sector dominated by BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz, it's no surprise that the 5 Series has been overhauled to stay ahead of the competition.

Aside from a slightly more slender appearance, the 5 Series looks very similar to its predecessor. However, under the skin there have been plenty of changes. For example, the chassis has been reworked using more lightweight materials, which contribute to an overall weight reduction of 100kg.

Meanwhile the notoriously smooth ride has been further optimised with a new suspension setup at the front and the rear.

Our 530d test car came with a 3.0-litre, six-cylinder diesel engine. It's an ideal powerplant for those who drive long distances, with excellent response and a surging, torquey power delivery. Resist the urge to put your foot down and you can easily achieve nearly 60mpg.

The 2.0-litre diesel is even more efficient, promising economy in excess of 60mpg and costing less to begin with. It doesn't have the same badge appeal as the 530d, but it has more than enough performance so you never feel like you're missing out.

A calm, relaxing drive has always been the 5 Series' key selling point, and BMW has exceeded its own high standard with the latest model. At motorway speeds it manages to smooth out the road so that even long drives are dispatched with zero stress.

It's a big car and struggles to hide it

What's arguably even more impressive is that this is not at the expense of great handling. The steering weight is perfectly judged and the 5 Series refrains from rolling around making it surprisingly fun to throw down a back road.

BMW's premium estate is a big car, and it struggles to hide it. The design is more slender than before, with the bodywork appearing to hug the frame more tightly. Particularly in the sportier trims, the addition of small aerodynamic wings help to give a more aggressive appearance, though the standard car does look a tad plain.

The interior is fantastic and exactly what you'd expect from a premium estate, sitting further towards the luxury 7 Series than the more family focused 3 Series. A large central screen plays host to all the menus and satellite navigation functions, with many controls able to be used by waving your hands around.

The only complaint that can be levelled at the car is that the seats are quite uncomfortable, resulting in minor back ache over long distances. Be sure to try out different seats and driving positions before settling on one.

The addition of small aerodynamic wings help to give a more aggressive appearance

The 5 Series' specification is impressive across the board, with even models lower down the pecking order not giving the feeling you're being short changed – a few blanked off buttons the only hint that something is up.

The standard SE model still gets the widescreen on the dashboard, two-zone climate control and ambient lighting, which makes night driving really pleasant. Optional extras that are worth going for include adaptive cruise control, Driving Assistant Plus (which includes a range of advanced driving aids) and wireless mobile phone charging.

It's difficult to find much to fault with the BMW 5 Series. It was already at the top of the game and with a few choice revisions, such as a lighter chassis and upgraded suspension, there's no doubt it'll continue at the top of the sales charts.

Every mile behind the wheel reminds you why this is the premium saloon benchmark – sorry to BMW's rivals, but expect business as usual in the sales charts.

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A bright future is on the horizon for Wolverhampton United with a new management team to lead them

Joint managers, Danny Carter, left, and Andrew Carrier

The managers seen during a training session at Prestwood Road

United for a new era with rising ambition

THE young management team have demanded their players' ambitions match their own as a new era begins at Wolverhampton United.

Danny Carter and Andrew Carrier are thinking big in their first post as joint bosses at the West Midlands League Division Two outfit.

It's been a long time since they've had much to shout about at their Prestwood Road home, which is in the Wednesfield area of the city.

It's 41 years since the current guise of United came to being, after Oxley and Whitmore Old Boys merged and joined the West Midlands League.

They have played in all three divisions of that pyramid, with four separate stints in the Premier Division until they were relegated for the last time back in 2003.

They went down to Division Two three years ago and finished eighth out of 14 teams last season, so improvement is much needed.

Experience

Carter and Carrier have been friends for years and are used to Premier Division football, so will want to climb back to that level.

Carter was a popular player at Wednesfield while Carrier has previous coaching experience, serving at Willenhall Town and Wolverhampton Sporting Community.

Both are just starting out in management, aged 24 and 28 respectively, and are determined to succeed for both themselves and the club.

Carrier said: "I've mainly played in the Prem, but I've had a few injuries and I've been watching football since then and constantly trying to get involved.

"Me and Danny have been friends through football for a long time now, he's well known and respected in the game. He's been captain, as a player, at every club he's been at.

"He's been trying to get into jobs here and there and, when this came up, he phoned me and asked if I'd be interested. I thought it would be great to work with him.

"We came in quite late, it was three weeks into pre-season so it was quite late really, but we quickly made a few phone calls to see what players we could get down. Danny has done really well to get those lads in, I've given him a helping hand with a few numbers and training has gone really well.

"I don't like to put this in a disrespectful way, but a few of them are probably coming towards the end of their careers although they still have plenty to offer to the game. They are all around Premier Division or Division One standard, some of them are the best in the league if you ask me.

"We've hit the ground running and me and Danny are not off the phone to each other every day and we talk, at length, about the squad after we've trained on a Thursday.

"We talked a bit more in depth after we've named the players, then we turn up on a Saturday and go over tactics, before we deliver it to the lads.

"We've set up a fine list, if you're late or don't have a shower or have dirty boots it will cost you.

"It's all for the players, though, it pays for their group nights out down the line. It gets a bit of a banter going between the lads and they are all trying to get money out of each other. It's all about emptying their pockets!"

They have left to concentrate on their jobs, with owner John Lee and chairperson Hazel Keirle taking care of matters behind-the-scenes.

Recruitment has gathered pace despite the duo arriving relatively late in the summer, succeeding Liam Fieldhouse after Ben Astley quit at the end of last season.

Centre-half Tony Russon has been brought in and named captain while striker Darren Leonard, even at the age of 43, has vast experience at a higher level.

Midfielder Lee Onions has played in the Premier Division for Wednesfield while Daniel Benbow, Jamal Pinnock and Leon Pugh have all turned out at levels above.

Promotion

Back-to-back home games have seen them begin the season unbeaten, with a 4-0 win over FC Darlaston and a 1-1 draw against AFC Bilbrook.

They are second on goal difference behind Warstones Wanderers, who have netted 15 goals in two games with 8-1 and 7-3 victories over Ludlow and AFC Bridgnorth Development.

Carter and Carrier expect Wanderers to be involved in the promotion race, but have made their intentions clear – they want to be champions.

Carrier added: "This could be a stepping stone, the aim is promotion and we really want to push on here. Hopefully, we can win the league.

"It's no secret what are ambitions are, I think we will be a force to be reckoned with. From what I'm told, Division Two is quite competitive but, hopefully, our experience can take over.

"Outsiders have asked us what we expect to do and the players are experienced enough to go out there and think to themselves 'no one at this level is better than us. We can do it'."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Craig Birch

The players are experienced enough to go out there and think to themselves 'no-one at this level is better than us. We can do it'.

Wolves are bookies' favourites for league

WOLVES have now been placed as favourites for the Championship title by leading bookmakers after their perfect start to the season. The club have gone from 14-1 since May to 11-4 after their good start to the 2017/18 campaign.

They have already seen off Middlesbrough, Derby and Hull as well as a victory over Yeovil in the league cup. Even before their clash on Saturday, with Cardiff, with Wolves then in second place, but level on points, the Molineux men were touted as the most likely to win the league.

David Stevens, head Of PR at Coral, said: "The odds have tumbled on Wolves for the Championship. They were 14-1 when we first opened betting in late May, and down to 10-1 before the start of the season.

"Their odds since have gone down to 15-2 after their opening win, then 11-2 and they are now11-4 favourites after last night's victory. To put it into context, Aston Villa were 7-1 title favourites before the season began, but are now out to 14-1."

Homegrown talent is priority for Pulis

TONY PULIS dreams of putting out an Albion team in the Premier League brimming with local talent from Birmingham and the Black Country.

The Baggies boss is impressed with the standard of players being nurtured in the academy and hopes that, in two years' time, those promising youngsters will be first-team regulars. Teenagers Sam Field and Rekeem Harper both played in midfield on the opening day of the season, while Jonathan Leko and Kane Wilson were named on the bench. If Pulis can follow up Gareth Barry's arrival with a few more additions before the window shuts, it may free up some of those youngsters to go out on loan.

The Baggies boss says regular men's football – the kind he can't afford to give them in the Premier League – is crucial for their development.

"The big thing about the football club is they've kept their young players in academy football for far, far too long," he said. "We've got to try and find four or five players to bring into this club to take it up to a level where we can cope without having the kids around us."

Marathon for 20th time will be 'special'

THE 20th running of one of the region's biggest marathons promises to be a 'special' occasion, according to the event's top sponsor. The Carver Wolverhampton City Marathon has been a landmark event since the late 1990s. It is just a matter of days before people take to Wolverhampton's streets for the 20th time in succession on Sunday September 3.

Henry Carver was behind Carvers becoming the major sponsors and underwriters of the event which has run since 1998. Mr Carver, who won the business person of the year award in the Express & Star Business Awards this year, said: "It is special to be marking 20 years.

"We've had a huge amount of support from the people of Wolverhampton and I believe we're fundamentally a charitable city. The numbers this year are looking encouraging and it's going to be more of the same. We always get 2,000-plus and we always give £15,000 to £20,000 to charity."

There will be six events – including the marathon, half-marathon, 10km run, cycle route, walk through West Park and wheel and wheelchair events.

Sport

United for a new era as ambition grows

Page 51

Bruce says Keinan can follow trend

STEVE BRUCE reckons Keinan Davis can follow in the footsteps of Villa's great No.9s after hailing the teenager's 'terrific' performance in Saturday's win over Norwich.

Though Conor Hourihane grabbed the headlines by netting a hat-trick, 19-year-old Davis sparkled on his full debut for the club and boss Bruce believes the former Biggleswade Town youth team striker could have a big future.

"Aston Villa have always had No.9s, it's a bit like Newcastle United," said Bruce. "They adore a big centre-forward who plays like an old-fashioned centre-forward, whether you look at Christian Benteke, Peter Withe, Andy Gray or wherever you want to go.

"They are hard to come by these days as they don't breed them any more. His (Davis's) breeding has been non-league.

"It's as good a debut as I can remember. Absolutely. Wow. He was terrific."

Davis, who had made eight previous substitute appearances, was given the nod due to injuries to Scott Hogan, Gabriel Agbonlahor and Jonathan Kodjia. And though he did not score, he proved a thorn in the side of the Norwich defence all afternoon and set up Hourihane for the opening goal.

Davis's part in Villa's first league win of the season was also recognised by hat-trick hero Hourihane, who said: "He's a dream to play with. You can make your runs off him and he was the main reason I had so much joy."

Smethwick star Singh cuts deficit

GURINDER SINGH was the star as Smethwick closed the gap on Moseley to four points at the top of Birmingham & District League Division One. They capitalised on the leaders' defeat to Bridgnorth by beating Shifnal by 45 runs.

Singh hit eight sixes and five fours in his unbeaten 98, off 54 balls, before taking 4-28 with the ball.

Nipun Karunanayake hit 80, but Himley fell further off the pace with defeat to Barnards Green.

Kidderminster closed the gap on Walsall to 14 points in their Premier Division relegation battle, but both suffered defeats. Opener Matt Pardoe was caught and bowled on 99 in Kidder's 292-8, but big-hitting Barnt Green cruised home in 35.5 overs.

Abid Ali hit 69no as West Bromwich Dartmouth accounted for Walsall. Wolverhampton were beaten by leaders Berkswell, despite 52 from Zen Malik.

In Division Two, Halesowen (Eddie Rhodes 4-15) kept themselves in the promotion race with victory over bottom club Old Hill, while Penkridge were also winners – at Sutton Coldfield. Attiq Chishti (53no) and Ishaq Mohammed (51no) put on an unbeaten fourth-wicket partnership to get their team home.

Late show sees final flourish for Dale

Tividale 4 v 0 Pegasus

THE first 15 minutes was a cagey affair with Tividale probing but Pegasus defending well and were obviously in no mood offer the home side any clear sight on their goal.

Tividale continued to press and on 13 minutes a Tom Hurdman cross found Darragh Bustin at the far post but he sent his shot wide. For the rest of the half Tividale had the majority of the possession but just could not break the visitors solid defence down leaving the home side to resort to mainly hopeful pot shots.

Half Time: Tividale 0 v 0 Pegasus Juniors

The visitors made a change at half time, bringing on Jake Warren for Tom Nunn, but that did not stem the tide as Tividale lifted their game and their crisp passing really had the visitors looking at a long half chasing the ball. But when they did gain possession they tried to catch the home side with quick counter attacks.

Tividale then made a triple substitution bringing on striker Chris Bladen with Elliott Hartley and Dan Wells to inject some pace against the tiring Pegasus defence. The changes brought immediate dividends when a Lawley free kick from the left hand side of the box was glanced past Turpin and into the net. Who had the final touch between Bladen and defender Nick Panniers? well it was tough to see but whoever got the touch made no difference to the score line it was 1-0 to Tividale on 68 minutes.

With them being a goal down Pegasus played some of there best football and while Tividale were still missing chances including a Lawley effort that rattled the post, the visitors were looking a lot more threatening and were unlucky not to draw level with an effort that came back off the cross bar.

But on 87 minutes Tividale wrapped up the points when Hartley outpaced full back Carl Horton and whipped in a low cross and there was no doubt about the scorer this time as Bladen side foot the ball home. A minute later it was 3-0 as Bustin beat the offside trap and slid the ball past Turpin and literally straight from the kick off Pegasus lost possession and this time Bustin became the provider as his right wing cross was met by Smith whose shot gave Turpin no chance.

WEDNESBURY OFF TO FLIER

Wednesbury 24
Upton-upon-Severn 12

WEDNESBURY took a fantastic step towards success in the new season with this impressive pre-season friendly performance.

The game was played in four 20-minute periods, instead of the usual two, this gave both sides the opportunity to try out different players and different formations.

In the first quarter both sides were feeling their feet, Wednesbury made some great moves letting the ball flow but missing out on the final pass still a but rusty, this improved as the game progressed.

Making his rugby debut Owen Styles made an impressive start, also playing Rob Dale making his first appearance on a Rugby field for five years after a serious shoulder injury nearly finished is playing career.

The second quarter saw Wednesbury up their game putting Upton under a lot of pressure, halfway through the second quarter Alex Love broke off the back of a maul and raced over the line for the first try, Sam Hodgetts added the conversion. At the start of the third quarter Matt Dale finished off a brilliant passage of play involving Matt and Dale Doughty to go over for the try, no conversion. Within three minutes Upton were on the score sheet following a great passage of play Upton went over for their first try then added the conversion.

Gary Page on the rampage for Wednesbury in their pre-season friendly again Upton-upon-Severn

At the start of the third quarter Lee Allwood rounded off a brilliant solo run to go over for a try, Matt Dale added the conversion. Wednesbury stepped up their game using man mountain Dale Doughty to use his bulk to punch holes in the Upton defence doing some sterling work with Matt Dale.

Upton upset the party a little taking advantage of a mistake in the Wednesbury defence they ran the ball over in the corner for their second try, no conversion. With only a minute remaining Dale Doughty's hard work paid off, he picked the ball up from the back of the maul and ran 15 metres to cross the line for the try, no conversion.

Wednesbury's coach Gary Summers said after the game, for a first game it was a good performance with some great positives to take forward to the next game. Wednesbury entertain Spartans with another squad game September 2, kick-off 3pm.

Wimmer or Sakho? Pulis set to decide

ALBION are waiting for Tony Pulis to give the green light on a £15million deal for Tottenham defender Kevin Wimmer as the Baggies boss weighs up his options in the transfer market.

Interest in Jonny Evans from Manchester City has opened up the possibility of recuperating enough cash to fund a £30m purchase of Mahmadou Sakho from Liverpool. Pulis is a huge fan of Sakho, who shone at Crystal Palace last season, although the Baggies are reliant on City matching their own £30m valuation of Evans first to fund that deal.

The Baggies boss is also aware he needs to make additions elsewhere in the squad and that 24-year-old Wimmer is available for half the price. Albion have won their opening two games of the season 1-0, but Pulis, who named four teenagers in his squad on Saturday, said that shouldn't distract from the need for additions.

"I think it shows the determination within the group," he said. "They are a very good group of players who have worked hard all pre-season, and we do a really hard pre-season. Now we need to bring that little bit of quality in to give everyone a lift."

Evans missed Saturday's 1-0 win over Burnley with a niggling hamstring problem and remained at the training ground to undergo rehabilitation.

His team-mates are unsurprised their skipper is attraction attention from Pep Guardiola's team, although they want him to stay at The Hawthorns.

Baggies appeal against Hal red

ALBION have appealed against the red card shown to Hal Robson-Kanu in their 1-0 victory at Burnley on Saturday.

The Welsh international – who came off the bench to score the Baggies' winning goal – was sent off after 83 minutes following an aerial challenge with Burnley's former Villa defender Matthew Lowton.

Albion confirmed on their website they have contacted the Football Association to submit a claim of wrongful dismissal.

Should the club fail in their appeal, Robson-Kanu would miss at least three matches.

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SPOTLIGHT ON **ENGINEERING**

- A record 40 students have been offered places on prestigious university courses ranging from Aston to Edinburgh, Lancaster and University College London, to Nottingham and Newcastle
- You can work on the college hovercraft project, studying aerodynamics and fibreglassing, or get robotics experience in the Fab Lab
- You get to visit European manufacturing plants to see CNC controls and automation live

SALARY £14,000-£35,000

CAREER SPORTS COACH

COURSE SPORTS STUDIES

SPOTLIGHT ON **SPORT**

- Our WBA Foundation Academy A Team have been league winners for two years running
- You do work placements or internships with Camp America, NHS, Sandwell Leisure Trust, and many more top employers
- You can progress to universities like Coventry and Cardiff – and apprenticeships
- Former student Ahkeem Rose is now playing professionally with Grimsby Town FC

DOG GROOMING
New for 2017/18!

We're the only college in the West Midlands to offer the Level 3 qualification!
This qualification covers the skills you will need to progress to work as a professional dog stylist.

SALARY
£20,000-£50,000

CAREER
BROADCAST ENGINEER

COURSE
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC & FILM PRODUCTION

- Music Technology & Performance courses will get you producing, engineering, marketing, promoting, and A&R experience through our emerging record label
- Get involved in digital music production, live sound recording, mixing, remixing, mastering and composition as you find out more about the music industry
- Our Film & Media Production qualification will lead on to university or arts/film school

WE'VE GOT THE RIGHT COURSE FOR YOU

SALARY
£27,000-£70,000

CAREER
SITE MANAGER

COURSE
CONSTRUCTION

SPOTLIGHT ON **CONSTRUCTION**

- Sandwell College students have transformed the old station master's office at Rolfe Street Station into a community exhibition room for London Midland
- You can compete in the Dunlop Multi Skill national final
- You can go on to find jobs with Think Sandwell! and Esprit, plus apprenticeships with Carillion like our latest students
- Former student David Hollywood is project director for Carillion, managing the building of the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital

SALARY
£18,000-£30,000

CAREER
SALON MANAGER

COURSE
BEAUTY THERAPY

SPOTLIGHT ON **HAIR & BEAUTY**

- Hairdressing and Hair & Media Make-up students won 1st and 2nd place at the NHF Britain's Best competition and finished runners-up at Blackpool's Winter Gardens
- Beauty therapy students have been working with the Kissing It Better charity at Sandwell and City Hospitals, assisting patients' recovery
- Our Theatrical Hair & Make-up qualification will get you into university

AGED 16 TO 18? ENROL @ SANDWELL COLLEGE

ENROLMENT EVERY DAY FROM 10AM-7PM (4PM ON FRIDAYS)

NO MATTER YOUR RESULTS - COME IN AND TALK TO US

AMAZING RANGE OF COURSES - FANTASTIC FACILITIES

PLUS! Get more out of College with a free travel pass, free meals and financial support*, and ALL of this:

STUDYPLUS PACKAGE

- GCSE starter pack to get you through your exams
- Work experience – 30 hours in your chosen career
- Customised careers advice
- Personal and practical welfare advice
- A team of mentors to help you with any problems you may have
- Help with literacy, numeracy, dyslexia and any additional needs
- A personal tutor to provide advice, guidance and encouragement
- Guidance to gain your university place
- Awards and celebrations
- Discounts in shops and online
- Trips, activities and events

* SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

WE'RE NEXT TO THE BUS & METRO STATIONS IN WEST BROMWICH

0800 622 006

www.sandwell.ac.uk

ENROL NOW

Ofsted Good Provider